Friday, February 3, 2012 ★★ 9 sections / Vol. 27 / No. 57 P18 | Mobile Alert: Text INQ ON (BREAKING) to 4467 | www.inquirer.net Twitter: @inquirerdotnet | Twitter: @INQ2000

facebook
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

THE FACE OF FACEBOOK In this May 26, 2010, photo, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg, 27, talks about the social network site's new privacy settings in Palo Alto, California. Zuckerberg came up at business conventions in a hoodie. "Cocky" is the word used to describe him most often, after "billionaire." He was Time's Person of the Year at 26. So when he takes Facebook public, why would he follow the Wall Street rules? / A1

Facebook embarks on biggest Net IPO ever

SAN FRANCISCO—It sure pays to have friends.

Facebook, the vast social network, took its first step toward becoming a publicly traded company on Wednesday as it filed to sell shares on the stock market.

The online service, hatched in a Harvard dormitory room nearly eight years ago, is on track to become the largest Internet initial public offering (IPO) ever—trumping Google's in 2004 or Netscape's nearly a decade before that.

Facebook, which has more than 845 million users worldwide, said in its filing that it was seeking to raise $5 billion, according to a figure used to calculate the registration fee.

But insiders say Facebook—which will have the ticker "FB" for its shares—is aiming for a far greater

FACEBOOK/A15

IPO to create a lot of multimillionaires / A15

No proof on '45 assets'

3 terror leaders killed in Sulu air raid

By DJ Yap in Manila
and Julie S. Alipala
Inquirer Mindanao

USING 227-kilogram bombs in an air attack that lasted only "a few seconds," government warplanes yesterday killed one of Southeast Asia's most-wanted terrorist leaders, as well as a senior Abu Sayyaf commander and a Singaporean guerrilla.

AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Jessie Dellosa said the operation, 3 a.m. operation occurred in the village of Dopas Baboy in Patikul, Sulu province. Also killed were 12 of the followers of the three terror leaders.

Asked for proof that 15 terrorists were killed, Dellosa said: "I am sure because I will not easily issue a statement here."

"You know our brothers out there, they get the bodies quickly so they can be buried," he said, in Pilipino.

Dellosa said he had strong basis for his report. "We have

MULTIMILLION HEAD A poster taken on Thursday (at left) shows Abu Sayyaf leader Abu Pula aka "Doc Abu," one of three senior Islamic militant figures killed in an air raid in Sulu. He carried a P7.4-M bounty on top of a $140,000 reward from the US. Above is an undated US government photo of Jemaah Islamiyah terror leader Zulkifli bin Hir also known as "Marwan" with a $5-M bounty on his head.

1 TOP/ A14

Prosecution admission elates Corona lawyers

By Marlon Ramos, Christian V. Esguerra and Cathy C. Yuvienco

THE PROSECUTION'S disclosure yesterday that it would be unable to present proof of Chief Justice Renato Corona's supposed 45 properties has put it in "a very difficult situation," according to the defense.

"It's good that [this is] being brought up now. The truth is now out," Ramon Esguerra, one of Corona's lawyers, told the Inquirer during a break in the 11th day of the trial.

Esguerra said some of the supposed properties were "actually not [registered] under Corona's name, particularly the one in Mckinley Hill [in Taguig City]."

Asked about the effect of the admission of the House lead prosecutor, Rep. Niel Tupas Jr., vis-à-vis the allegations stated in Article 2, Esguerra said: "I don't want to make any judgment. But they are now faced with a very difficult situation."

In reply to a question, Tranquil Salvador III, spokesperson for the defense, said the prosecution's admission was unexpected.

"We did not expect it because we just live by the day," Salvador said. "But we are surprised that sometimes some things happen that favor us. We don't claim victory, but this is good for us and the country."

HOT EVIDENCE/ A17

Empty seats, bored audience mark Day 11 / A17

Lito Lapid Pampanga's pride, shame

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Kapampangan pride received either a boost or a beating depending on who you ask among the cubicles of Sen. Lito Lapid concerning his first-ever "performance" at the Senate impeachment trial of Chief Justice Renato Corona.

PAMPANGA/ A19

Lapid wife's trial for dollar smuggling in US starts Feb. 7 / A10

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Soccer violence in Egypt kills 74 / A25

P-Noy expects RH passage, 12 other bills next year

By Norman Bordadora
and Leila B. Salaverria

PRESIDENT Aquino expects the passage of 13 priority measures, including the controversial reproductive health bill, before the 15th Congress ends next year.

The President made the remark yesterday amid the apparent preoccupation of both the Senate and the House of Representatives with Chief Justice Renato Corona's impeachment trial and Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman's protest observation that legislative work was being sacrificed to the four-times-a-week hearings.

"Our expectations are that priority measures will still be passed before the current Congress ends," the President said in a text message relayed through his deputy spokesperson, Undersecretary

PAGES/ A11

Aquino administration's priority measures / A11

Employment up in 2011 but job satisfaction down

MORE Filipinos held jobs in 2011 than in 2010, but many of them wanted a different job or more working hours as they could earn more, the National Statistics Office (NSO) said in a report.

While the unemployment rate fell slightly to 7 percent in 2011 from 7.3 percent in 2010, the underemployment rate rose to 19.3 percent from 18.8 percent, the NSO said.

"Many feel that the quality and type of their job do not allow them to earn more. Hence, the underemployment rate could reflect the lack of quality jobs that would suit the needs of those in the workforce," said economist Cid L. Terosa of the University of Asia and the Pacific.

Terosa said in a text message that it was possible that quality jobs were available but applicants were not good

EMPLOYMENT/ A16

BASA-GUEDITE BUILDING NO MORE Sampaloc residents point to the vacant lot along Legarda street near Bustillos (formerly J. Figueras) and adjacent to the Legarda station of LRT 2 where the Basa-Guedite Building used to stand. The property was reportedly expropriated by the Manila government which paid the owners P34 million in 2001.

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

6/49 17 7
4D 22 8
3D 11 28
SUERTRESO 4 5 1
2D 2 3 5
3D 2 7 2

SIX DIGIT
9 6 2 1 5 7
6/42 LUZ MIS-MIN
1 5 10 18 31 38
P3,210,971.40
SUPERLOTTO 6/45
17 25 33 38 40 49
P51,874,618.40

No 'shoot-to-kill' vs Palparan

By Carmela Reyes Ilarmo, Inquirer Central Luzon

MALOLOS, Bulacan—There is no shoot-to-kill order against fugitive retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan as the government wants him alive, Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo said here yesterday.

"I am not issuing a shoot-to-kill order against him. My name is being linked to that order and I am not among the charges filed against him," Robredo said on the sidelines of a forum on Bulacan's Seal of Good Governance and Housekeeping.

Palparan and three other soldiers are facing charges for kidnapping and torture illegal detention in connection with the the disappearance of University of the Philippines student Sherlyn Cadapan and Karen Empeño in 2006.

Robredo said those accusing the Armed Forces of molding Palparan should help the government by sharing information. "They should identify the culprits," he said.

The Army yesterday said it would be in the best interest of Palparan to give himself up, even as it denied allegations by an international rights group that the military may be molding the fugitive.

"We firmly believe that the best option for General Palparan is to voluntarily surrender and clear his name," said Army spokesperson Maj. Harold Cabunoc in a statement.

Cabunoc denied the fears expressed by the New York-based Human Rights Watch (HRW) that the military was interfering in the civilian judicial process with regard to the case involving the fugitive general.

"The Army, as a professional organization, respects the rule of law and our justice system. We practice transparency and accountability to our organization," Cabunoc said.

He pointed out that the Army had voluntarily surrendered two of Palparan's co-accused, Lt. Col. Felipe Anototo and Staff Sgt. Edgardo Osorio, when it learned that warrants for their arrest had been issued by a Malolos, Bulacan, judge.

"If anyone can give the names of those alleged Palparan soldiers, we will promptly request their primary actions and let them face criminal cases that will be filed against them," Cabunoc said.

On Wednesday, Human Rights Watch, the HRW Asia's Asia Director and Presidente Aquino "should get the message to the military that the years of protecting Palparan for grievous abuses are over."

"Officers and soldiers alike should be on notice that if they block civilian authorities in serving Palparan, they too will face legal consequences," Pearson said in a statement.

Palparan, who carries a P1 million bounty on his head, was last seen on Dec. 19, 2011 at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport at the Gate Prosper appreciation, Philippine Airlines flight PR 301 bound for Singapore but was prevented by the bureau of immigration.

Meanwhile, Cadapan's mother, Erlinda, denounced the slow pace of the manhunt for Palparan, and accused the Aquino government of not putting enough effort into arresting the general.

Erlinda said that the P1 million bounty put out by Palparan's arrest was not enough.

"The Aquino government's effort to arrest Palparan is not enough. Right now I believe the administration has wasted only 10 percent of its resources to search for Palparan," she said.

With a report from DJ Yap

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TUESDAY TO WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7 – 8, 2012

MANILA (ERMITA)

BETWEEN 10:00PM (TUE.) AND 5:00AM (WED.) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT NAMNAMAN-HAYP

WEDNESDAY TO THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8 – 9, 2012

QUEZON CITY

BETWEEN 10:00PM AND 11:00PM (WED.) AND BETWEEN 5:00AM AND 6:00AM (THU.) – PORTIONS OF CIRCUIT NAMNAMAN-HAYP

REASON: Maintenance work along Banawe and Emilio Jacinto Sts. in Brgy. Manresa.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2012

BULACAN (BALIWAG AND SAN RAFAEL)

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 12:30AM AND THEN BETWEEN 1:00AM AND 4:00AM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT BALIWAG-STA

REASON: Replacement of rotted pole and installation of new pole at Brgy. Tarcan, San Rafael.

FRIDAY TO SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10 – 11, 2012

VALENZUELA CITY

BETWEEN 11:00PM (FRI., 02/10/12) AND 12:00AM (SAT., 02/11/12) AND THEN BETWEEN 4:00AM AND 5:00AM (SAT., 02/11/12) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT MALINTA 60HZ AND 48 KV

REASON: Maintenance work along Mc Arthur Highway in Brgy. Malinta.

BETWEEN 10:00PM (FRI., 02/10/12) AND 6:00AM (SAT., 02/11/12) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT MALINTA 60HZ AND 48 KV

REASON: Maintenance work along Mc Arthur Highway in Brgy. Malinta.

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2012

PARAÑAQUE CITY

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 5:00PM AND THEN BETWEEN 1:00PM AND 2:00PM – PORTIONS OF CIRCUIT BF – PARANAQUE 4(2.5KV)

REASON: Replacement of rotten wood poles and other line maintenance work along Aguirre Road in Brgy. Western, Talavera.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2012

BULACAN (MALOLOS)

BETWEEN 3:00AM AND 5:00AM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT TARANG 13KV

REASON: Maintenance work on trees and Manglicmot – Tabang installation.

LAGUNA (SAN PABLO CITY) AND QUEZON PROVINCE (CANDELARIA)

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 5:00PM AND THEN BETWEEN 1:00PM AND 2:00PM – PORTIONS OF CIRCUIT SAN PABLO 4(KV)

REASON: Maintenance work on trees and Manglicmot – Tabang installation.

BULACAN (SAN RAFAEL)

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 3:00PM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT CIRC 46 SAN 24(V)

REASON: Preventive maintenance and bolting work inside Meralco Zone on Dela Salvacion.

GMA wants to attend wake of Iggy Arroyo

By Nathaniel R. Mallare

FORMER President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has asked the Pasay Regional Trial Court to allow her to attend the wake of her brother-in-law, Negros Occidental Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo.

In an urgent motion filed with the Pasay Regional Trial Court on Wednesday, Arroyo said she was saddened when she heard the news of Iggy's passing last week.

"Accused is extremely saddened and deserves to attend the wake of her late brother-in-law in order to pay her respects and to join the rest of his bereaved family in mourning the untimely demise of Rep. Iggy Arroyo," she said in her petition.

She asked to be "granted permission to attend the wake of her brother-in-law... under such terms and conditions as the honorable court may deem proper under the circumstances."

According to the document, Iggy Arroyo's remains are expected to arrive in the Philippines over the weekend, and the venue and other details of the wake would be known over the next couple of days.

Judge Jesus Elupar in an order on the petition at 8:30 a.m., as well as a motion from the Commission on Elections (Comelec) to have Arroyo, who has been charged with the cumbersome capital offense of electoral sabotage, transferred to an ordinary jail.

Arroyo has been detained in the Veterans' Memorial Medical Center (VMMC) since late arrest last December.

In a related development, Arroyo's team of doctors at the VMMC has complied with Mupas' order for them to submit a report on Arroyo's condition in relation to Comelec's motion.

Doctors Victoria Jones, Martha Navarro, Rolando Javier, Antonio Bisco and Ruben Castillano filed an eight-page compliance report considering a detailed abstract, orthopedic, medical and medical abstract.

In the compliance report, the doctors said Arroyo is being treated for infectious colitis, hypoparathyroidism, hypomolarmia, hypomagnesia, steatosis (a disease), cervical spondylosis and spinal stenosis.

The doctors said they wanted "to continue immobilization of the cervical spine for another option with close supervision."

They also said her cervical brace can be removed but advised that she should be careful with abrupt movements.

The doctors also said they wanted to perform another operation on Arroyo.

"Elective surgery is considered but after three major spine operations, the patient is not physically and emotionally prepared to undergo another spine procedure. The best option at the moment is to continue conservative measures with intensive physiotherapy with close supervision," the report said.

Mupas is expected to weigh the doctors' plans in deciding on the Comelec's petition.

Palace open to new 'Jose Pidal' probe

By Christine D. Avendaño

MALACAÑANG yesterday said it would support the reopening of the Senate investigations into the "Jose Pidal" bank accounts following the reported discovery by Sen. Panfilo Lacson of new allegedly accounts containing P2 billion each and said is looking to honor their confidentiality. Jose Pidal is "Mike" Arroyo and his brother Jose Candelaria Arroyo, Spanish "Ey-gi" in boys who died last week.

"While we understand that it is a private time of grief for the Arroyo family, there are unfortunately far too many that can answer be buried—truth and accountability," said deputy presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte.

Valte said that Lacson could locate another investigation into the bank accounts he claimed were owned by Mike Arroyo using the names Jose Pidal.

The Senate investigations into the Jose Pidal accounts in 2003 did not prosper after Iggy Arroyo came forward to claim their ownership.

A few days ago, Lacson said he had discovered new other accounts containing the initials "JPA" owned by the Arroyo brothers and containing P2 billion each.

In a press briefing, Valte said the Palace was ready to assist the Senate should it reopen the investigation.

"If and when we are called, our officials will provide what is requested of them," she said.

Iggy Arroyo died on Jan. 26 in London where he was undergoing treatment for cirrhosis of the liver.

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30th ANNIVERSARY

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BALDOZ IN BEIRUT

Lifting of OFW ban in Lebanon seen

By Philip C. Tubeza

BEIRUT—Labor Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz on Wednesday signed two agreements here to protect the rights of overseas Filipino workers in Lebanon and pave the way for the lifting of the total deployment ban on OFWs coming to the country.

Baldoz said the agreements she signed with Lebanese Labor Minister Charbel Nahhas would also lead to a Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) review of its certification of Lebanon as an unsafe country for deployment under Republic Act No. 10022 or the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995.

The two officials inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Labor Cooperation and a Protocol on Regulating the Recruitment and Employment of Domestic Workers.

Big step

"It's a big step towards lifting the ban. With their (respective DFA certifications) then totally saved (Ida," Baldoz said in an interview.

The total deployment ban on domestic workers in Lebanon was imposed in July 2007 after the country got caught up in an explosive conflict with Israel. There were an estimated 35,000 Filipinos in the country then but the number has since risen to some 30,000 with the continuing influx of undocumented workers.

Baldoz said that among the benefits Filipino maids would get is a US$400 basic monthly wage. The previous would-be included in the "unified work contract" the two sides will finish on.

"The (MOU) and its accompanying Protocol are concrete positive steps of both Lebanon and the Philippines that demonstrate their mutual accord and commitment to the promotion of decent work for domestic workers in accordance with international standards," a joint statement released by the two governments said.

Best effort

"One of the most important provisions of the Protocol is that both parties will enact their best efforts to come up with a mutually acceptable unified work contract and to fill the box within a period of 30 days from the entering into effect of the (MOU) and the Protocol," it said.

The statement also pointed out the Protocol would require that Lebanese employers deposit their domestic helper's salary in a bank account under the worker's name.

Baldoz was slated to sign only the MOU when she arrived here Tuesday but Nahhas insisted that they also come up with the Protocol and also sign it.

All day Tuesday and half of Wednesday, the Filipino delegation led by Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) chief Hans Leo Cacdac and Overseas Workers Welfare Administration head Carmelita Dimzon negotiated with their Lebanese counterparts to iron out the details.

Baldoz said the agreements would be reviewed by the Lebanese Parliament. Once they are approved, the DFA would review its negative certification of Lebanon and the POEA governing board would decide whether or not to lift the ban.

The Philippine government would have 30 days to decide whether or not to lift the ban once Lebanon formally informs it that its Parliament had given its nod to the agreements.

Boutique owners face ₱227-M tax evasion case

By Jeremie Arnaiz

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue (BIR) yesterday filed before the Department of Justice (DOJ) at least ₱226.9 million worth of tax cases against the Genevieve Corpuz chain of boutiques and flowershops.

The BIR named Globe Wireless International Enterprises Corp. (GWIEC), the company that runs the flowershops inside boutiques, as have been blaming its executives, claiming false input value-added tax, thereby under-declaring its income and VAT.

GWIEC falsely claimed to have bought ₱223.42 million from Fine & Fancy Fabrics Center, the BIR said.

Fine & Fancy denied having any business dealings with GWIEC and asked the latter to credit its claims with the BIR. When asked to explain the discrepancy, GWIEC did not respond to the BIR.

The value-added tax system allows the BIR to track purchases between buyers and their suppliers. The system flagged the discrepancy in the submissions of GWIEC and Fine and Fancy.

The BIR's assessed the total tax liability of GWIEC at ₱226.9 million, including surcharge and interest, broken down to ₱84.60 million in VAT and ₱106.5 million in income tax.

The BIR asked the DOJ to charge GWIEC and its officers, Genevieve Corpuz and Grace Gonzaga, for violations of National Internal Revenue Code, or for evading taxes and failing to supply the BIR with correct and accurate information.

Meanwhile, the BIR has also sued Lopez Ann Jose de Jesus, owner of the Rosemary Boutique and Clinic at the Harrison Plaza mall in Manila, for allegedly printing its "official" receipts and/or commercial invoices without authority from the BIR and for failing to issue duly registered receipts.

The BIR implemented a summer order on Rosemary Boutique and Clinic on Nov. 10, 2011, effective 3 BIR officers posted as a customer.

The future of pharma is in Generics

Generic medicines have now proven to be the most influential game changers in the local pharmaceutical industry. Public acceptance of generic drugs is at an all-time high, and continues to grow at an impressively swift rate every year.

Their market proliferation and penetration have become irresistible and unstoppable. Thanks to the relentless growth of such pioneering drugstores as The Generics Pharmacy® (TGP). The company's network growth – shooting to over 1,000 branches in just four years – has overtaken all other pharmacies, large and small. Today, it has the biggest chain in the country, and its success illustrates how much the public now trusts and patronizes generic medicines.

Seeking to reinforce the safety and efficacy of generic medicines even more, those who have been in the business of manufacturing and distributing branded drugs now attest to the supremacy of generics all along.

"There has been a major shift in the pharmaceutical industry," said Jojo Marasa, a former medical representative of global pharmaceutical giant, GlaxoSmithKline Philippines.

"We have seen generic drugs become a major force in the industry now. Much of the success of generic drugs should be credited to The Generics Pharmacy®," he continued.

Similar in efficacy

Marasa states that there really is no difference at all in efficacy between branded and generic medicines. "The only difference really is just the price," he explained. "That's because branded drugs involve much heavier investments and different stages in the supply chain, while generic drugs have no patents and I have a more direct line to consumers. But their molecular ingredients are totally the same."

This was affirmed by Heike Bultweg, a former Regional Business Manager of GlaxoSmithKline. Prior to his retirement in 2008, he has spent more than 30 years in the pharmaceuticals business.

"Branded medicines are largely patented, which brings the cost up," he said. "The patent does not make them more effective, only more expensive."

Recommending generic drugs

General Surgeon Dr. Lester Tapang, who has been practicing for more than 30 years, attests wholeheartedly to the benefits of generic medicines. "From my experience, generic medicines are indeed effective," he said. "My patients get better after taking them, so I never stop recommending them. Even large hospitals are using generics. What's more, it feels good to be able to help others afford the medicines that they need."

Dr. Tapang's confidence in prescribing generic drugs rests also on the strict quality control measures that these go through. "Generic medicines are now heavily monitored and have gained quality control," he said. "They are also distributed directly from manufacturing sites, so there is no chance of tampering."

"Generic medicines are all approved by the Food and Drug Administration (formerly BFAD)," seconded Bultweg. "Pharmaceutical companies' manufacturing plants are now accredited by quality agencies worldwide, and most of them now have Certificate of Good Manufacturing Practices (CGMP). Some even get accreditation from the US FDA, one of the strictest regulatory agencies in the world."

Dr. Tapang believes that the growth of generics is partly owed to the rise in more consumers start preferring these over branded medicines.

TGP's business model has successfully brought generics to the whole country, says Heike Bultweg, shown here with his staff and family members.

Flourishing business model

By constantly educating the public about the safety, efficacy and affordability of generic medicines, The Generics Pharmacy® has been able to lay the foundation for its phenomenal growth. "TGP's success tells us a lot about generic medicines," said Marasa, who operates 11 branches nationwide with three more soon to open. "TGP could not have grown this big if no one was getting well through its medicines. The company flourishes because of its customers, and our marketing efforts are primarily through positive word of mouth. Once people try it, they believe in TGP."

For Bultweg, who spent 31 years, with nine more under construction, the TGP franchising model is the best for the business. "The way TGP was able to bring its products to the customer, to the municipalities and far-flung communities, is really outstanding," he said. "I really feel left-filled knowing that we are able to help more Filipino families and patients by providing affordable but high quality medicines. So it is really gratifying."

Meanwhile, Dr. Tapang feels that his own TGP business is the best complement to his profession. "Just as a doctor has the calling to care for the sick, TGP has the mission to help people afford the quality medicines they need. The prospect of being able to help others is the best part of being a TGP franchisee."

In this vein, the growth of generic drugs also led to greater consumer empowerment. Dr. Tapang observed that gone were the days when whatever brand the doctor prescribed was taken at face value. "Purchasing decisions are now up to the consumers, and no longer ours," he said. "They know they have options, whether to go for branded or generics. It's all market driven now."

Generic medicines have now gained the consumer esteem that they deserve, paving the way for the future of the local industry, a pattern that is also seen worldwide. Such is their influence that TGP has been able to level the pharmaceutical playing field, creating a whole new set of entrepreneurs, and, most of all, benefiting individuals, families and the whole nation. ●

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Philippine Airlines
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70

Pinoy vets got $214M from US last year

By Jerry E. Esplanada

MORE than 16,000 Filipino World War II veterans or their family members last year received a total of $214.4 million (about P9.22 billion) in benefits and arrears from the United States' Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), according to the US Embassy in Manila.

The embassy furnished the breakdown in a two-page VA report which said that the benefits included pension payments ($146.5 million); survivor equity compensation payments ($13.07 million); medical services ($10.7 million); and education entitlements ($22.12 million).

This year, the 90th anniversary of its operations in the Philippines, the US government has allocated $150 million (about P6.45 billion), or $16 million (about P688 million) per month, in disability compensation to approximately 15,000 beneficiaries.

"These monthly payments are in addition to the one-time lump sum payments made to Filipino World War II veterans or their dependents as part of the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Program (FVECP)," the report said.

Since 2009, the VA has released over $221 million in one-time FVECP payments to some 16,000 eligible veterans who served under US command in World War II.

"This extends the 18,000 veterans estimated prior to the FVECP benefits becoming law" the report said.

In 2003, FVECP-related payments totaled $113,841,204 (about P4.89 billion).

On May 13 last year, US Ambassador to the Philippines Harry Thomas Jr. cited the "unparalleled service and sacrifice" of both American and Philippine war veterans.

Speaking at Veterans Day rites at the American Cemetery in Taguig City, Thomas said, "We owe our service members and veterans a debt of gratitude."

"For every two centuries, our countries have produced the finest men and women in uniform. Many are gathered here today and many more have lost their lives in battle. Our veterans are our liberators and our heroes. They are responsible for our freedom and the democracy we cherish," he said.

Debt to veterans

The envoy emphasized that "our debt to our veterans cannot be repaid with a mere hero's welcome alone. We must also ensure that our veterans are well taken care of and have opportunities for continuing education and disability and health benefits."

At the same time, Thomas stressed the need to "honor those who answered the call to service when the US found it necessary to take up arms to defend dual rebels we held dear. Among them are our service members living, Afghanistan and other areas of conflict and mourning who have chosen to be away from their loved ones in order to preserve our freedoms."

In his remarks, the US diplomat pointed out that the VA "has been in the Philippines since 1903."

"Our Veterans Affairs office in Manila is the only VA office overseas, a testament to the strong ties and still growing partnership between the US and the Philippines. VA officials will continue the great progress in the Philippines" Veterans Memorial Medical Center as further evidence of our commitment to all Filipino war veterans and their families, our gaze now in peace," Thomas said.

VA records show the agency's point in and projects to the United States connected to over $6.5 million in the past nine years.

The funds went to the upgrade of the Quezon City hospital's equipment, including hospital, ultrasound, fluoroscopy, CT-scan and MRI machines, Gamma X-ray cameras, ICU echocardiograms, cardiac monitors, as well as an eye center, among other things.

Llamas' fate bangs; Pacman joins backers

MALACAÑANG is expected to finalize today the findings of the investigation of Secretary Ronald Llamas' purchase of handgrenade video disks.

Undersecretary Abigail Valte, President Aquino's deputy spokesperson, yesterday said possible sanctions against Llamas would not be discussed until the panel findings were officially released.

"We were advised that the proceedings will wrap up within the week and we have received no information to the contrary," Valte said when asked if the Malacañang panel's recommendations would be submitted today as President Aquino announced on Wednesday.

Boxing champion Sarangani Rep. Manny Pacquiao defended Llamas yesterday saying the political adviser violated no law when he purchased P53,000 worth of pirated DVD movies.

"He didn't violate any law and he has already said sorry for what happened," Pacquiao said. "We should be allowed to continue the good that he's doing for our military manpower."

But Bak singer Noel Cabangon, who supported President Aquino during the election campaign, said Llamas' purchase of pirated DVDs was improper.

He, however, added that Llamas' aide should have been taken when he was playing. "Llamas' aide should have taken action for was also wrongdoing when he engaged there."

"As an artist I believe in copyright protection but the incentive to this incident has been greatly disproportionate and overly sensationalized," Cabangon said.

Former UP President Francisco Nemenzo earlier defended Llamas.

"I think the public should understand that what happened to Ronald last week is not necessarily a bad thing because this just proves that unlike other people who get appointed to high positions in government and all of a sudden live lavish lifestyles, Ronald continues to be the ordinary and simple person that he is," Nemenzo said.

Nemenzo said he had been a close friend of Llamas for the past 30 years. — Ayee Macaraig, Bimbo Fernandez

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Acosta opposes aunt's bid

By Lala B. Salmorin

PARAÑAQUE – Alleging that Nenita Acosta has questioned his aunt's plan to turn mum's evidence and wealth against him in a graft case they are facing.

He has also opposed her plea to defer trial in the Sandiganbayan while she is awaiting the Ombudsman's decision on her petition.

In an opposition filed in the antigraft court on Feb. 1, Acosta said he had a right to a speedy trial, which overrode his aunt Nenita Bautista's "self-serving" plea to hold it in abeyance.

"These rights are constitutionally guaranteed and are separate to rights claimed by Bautista, including her appearances for convenience to a state witness," he said.

Bautista, in her motion, said she was seeking a temporary stop to the trial to give the Office of the Ombudsman time to resolve her petition to become a state witness. She noted that the prosecution had no issue withstand to present and opposing her petition would give it a new witness.

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Mr. Xiaobai, a 32 year old Hong Kong Chinese felt a pain lifting his right hand, headaches, twitching of limbs , these discomforts are no surprise to the get a CT examination on the upper right temporal glioma of the head. The examination showed no presence of glioma, she went for surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy. Finally, Mr. Xiaobai chose the treatment at Guangzhou Modern Cancer Hospital.

The CT scan showed that there is a large glioma in the upper right temporal portion of the head. The size of The tumor is large, the location is deep in the cranial nerve and the brain stem, there is a significant pressure on the important nerves like the pituitary nerves causing life. Xiaobai to have visual acuity disorders physical activity becomes an obstacle. With a life long control brain tumor like this, a conventional surgery is risky, and it will not completely remove the tumor, and there is easy recurrence of tumor.

Professor Feng Xiaozhi carefully studied the condition of Mr. Xiaobai, and decided to adopt the latest treatment for brain tumors - "removal of local tumor and Photodynamic therapy" this is the removal of the brain tumors with the use of laser, and completely killing the residual tumor cells by adjuvant therapy.

Before the operation, the experts will first intravenously inject her with photosensitizer. After the injection, the Photosensitizer will flow through the blood to reach the tumor tissue. The Photosensitizer will stick to the tumor cells, selectively gathering, trapping the tumor tissue. Then a certain wavelength of laser radiation will be applied to the tumor tissue, this photosensitizer will be activated by photochemical reaction, destroying the targeted cancer cells, therefore destroying the tumor tissue, from after the patient is awaken, normal physical activities will return.

According to reports, Photodynamic Therapy is the ideal treatment for malignant tumor that was developed in recent years. Photodynamic Therapy has little side effects, and there is little damage on hematopoietic system and immune system. This provides a new and effective treatment for cancer patients.

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Across the NATION

UK warns of kidnaps, terror in PH

By Jerry E. Esplanada

THE UNITED Kingdom has updated its travel advisory, warning its citizens of kidnappings and terror attacks in the Philippines and telling them to stay out of Mindanao.

In a Feb. 1 advisory, the UK Embassy in Taguig City warned British citizens that terror activities in the Philippines "could be indiscriminate."

The advisory came after two Europeans were kidnapped in Tawi-Tawi on Wednesday.

The UK advisory said kidnapping "could occur anywhere, including on coastal and island resorts and dive areas in the Sulu Sea."

The embassy advised against "all travel to southwest Mindanao"—Zamboanga Region in Muslim Mindanao, Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Sarangani, North and South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Lanao del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur and Zamboanga Sibugay.

"We also advise against all but essential travel to the remainder of Mindanao because of ongoing terrorist activities," it said.

"There have been a number of attacks against civilian targets, Since November 2011, there have been at least 18 bombing incidents in North Cotabato, Cotabato City, Isulu, Sultan Kudarat and Zamboanga, killing a total of eight people and leaving 46 others wounded," it said.

The advisory also said elsewhere in the Philippines, "there is a high incidence of violent crimes."

"Criminal gangs sometimes use terrorist tactics, such as kidnapping and explosives," said the embassy.

"There is a high incidence of armed crimes and robberies, armed holdups have occurred on jeepneys and buses and have, in some cases, resulted in fatalities," it said.

Meanwhile, yesterday confirmed the kidnapping of 61-year-old Hans, 52, of The Netherlands, and Lorenzo Vinciguerra, 47, of Switzerland in Tawi-Tawi.

Abigail Valte, one of several Palace spokespersons, said Malacañang has ordered all concerned agencies and government to search for the release or rescue of the Europeans.

She said the provincial crisis management committee of Tawi-Tawi is now handling the case.

Hans and Vinciguerra were snatched with a Filipina, Ivan Sarenas, a swimming bird expert who accompanied the foreigners and who escaped from their captors. (See story on this page.)

The Department of Foreign Affairs said Valte, is keeping the embassies of The Netherlands and Switzerland "abreast of all relevant information" on the case.

But she said she didn't believe that the kidnapping of Hans and Vinciguerra would hurt the government's tourism campaign, however.

Police and soldiers were on their way to secure the release of the victims, according to military spokespersons.

Tawi-Tawi Gov. Sadikul Sahali said he suspected that local residents were behind the kidnapping.

The Europeans spent 14 days in the town of Panglima Sugala in Tawi-Tawi for bird watching, according to the governor.

The captors, said Sahali, allowed the victims "to live as it was possible they only wanted money for holding the foreigners." The perpetrators, he said, "are probably locals."

Senator Tito Sotto, Sadikul Sahali's brother-in-law, said he suspected the Abu Sayyaf group were not outsiders, was the burning of a boat that was used in transporting the captives.

The boat, said Sotto, was burned "to conceal the identity of the owners." With reports from Julie Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao and Z.J. Yap

COMMAND POST
The Tayan Hill in Real town, Laguna, served as a command post of Filipino-American troops in 1945. It is now being promoted as a tourist destination ideal for hiking and biking.

Skin diving helped Pinoy flee gunmen in Tawi-Tawi

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Ivan Sarenas held his breath as long as he could as he swam underwater to Tawi-Tawi on Wednesday in escape gunmen who had snatched him and fellow bird watchers Harold Hietz, 52, of The Netherlands, and Lorenzo Vinciguerra 47, of Switzerland.

"I saw an opportunity in the darkness of the night," said Sarenas in a phone interview.

He said his experience in skin diving (like scuba diving but without breathing apparatus) helped him in his escape.

Sarenas said he was glad that he was familiar with the waters of Tawi-Tawi. He was a regular visitor to the island province and just weeks before accompanying Hietz and Vinciguerra there, Sarenas said he also went there with several other foreigners for bird watching.

Sarenas said he was plucked out of sea by fishermen near Langayan Island.

Langayan is about 37 kilometers from Panglima Sugala, where the abduction took place.

He was brought to the Langayan police station, where he was later fetched by Senior Supt. Rodolfo Jocson, Tawi-Tawi police director.

Sarenas said he was unhappy despite his escape because he was excited about Hietz and Vinciguerra.

Hietz and Vinciguerra are museum staffers in their countries and involved in animal conservation, he said.

Sarenas said what lured the two foreigners to Tawi-Tawi, in search of rare species found there, were the Tawi-Tawi brown-hill turtles and cave birds.

He said the two had tried to go to Tawi-Tawi in 1994, "but they were refused access in the area to see the birdslife." "When they got permission, they immediately went to me" said Sarenas.

The Europeans also documented other species that they found in Tawi-Tawi, like crab owls and brown doves. They spent 14 days to do this, said Sarenas.

"I guess my movement has been monitored, so were we tracked," Sarenas said. With reports from Julie Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

Execs probe logging in reforestation site

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—Authorities are investigating the cutting of trees inside a reforestation area in a town in Iloilo.

Julian Amador, Western Visayas head of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), said a regional task force is gathering evidence against those involved in executing a reforestation area in Calinog town.

Police, officials of the Department of Interior and Local Government, and soldiers are helping in the investigation as members of the task force.

Amador said DENR would file administrative and criminal cases against those behind the tree-cutting and seize vehicles and equipment.

The task force last week seized 7,000 board feet of cut trees in the 756-hectare Alimit reforestation project in Barangay Hilimanan in Calinog, some 104 kilometers north of this city.

Levi Danes, DENR regional technical director for forest management services, said in a phone interview that the exact value of the seized timber could reach P175,000.

The DENR received information on the cutting of trees in the reforestation area last week, which prompted the raid. But no one was caught during the operation and the cut trees were apparently abandoned, according to Danes.

The seized pieces of timber were brought to the headquarters of the Army's 61st Infantry Battalion.

The Joint information project is part of a program to rehabilitate the Alimit water basin, the main water source for the irrigation of agricultural lands in Iloilo.

Danes said the reforestation area was secured by Eowi guards but there were too few guards to cover the entire area.

In Marcia Iowa, Negros Occidental, three forest fires destroyed several trees in Hamtic Mountain, about 15 kilometers east of Bacolod City.

Local officials suspected arsonists, saying the fires may have been started by people who wanted to occupy the reforestation area.

"We will arrest those responsible and assess charges will be filed against them," said Jose Ma. Valverde, chief of staff of Gov. Alfredo Marañon Jr.

He said authorities were working together in just one the blaze.

President Aquino has issued an executive order banning all forms of commercial logging in the country but loggers continued to defy the order.

Logging continues in some of the most threatened forests in the country, including in Sierra Madre and the forests of Caraballo.

The Dec. 17 disaster that struck the northern Mindanao cities of Cagayan de Oro and Iligan had been blamed largely on rainforest tree-cutting in Lanao del Sur that unleashed hundreds of logs in the height of flooding in the two cities. With a report from Cielo B. Cuenca, Inquirer Visayas

Dam holds but P5B seen for repairs, say execs

By Carmela Reyes-Estrope
Inquirer Central Luzon

MORGANABAY, Bulacan—While the 42-year-old Angat Dam remains sturdy, the government needs to spend about P5 billion in rehabilitation, according to an official of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS).

Jerry Bagsiwal, MWSS administrator, said the feasibility study on the rehabilitation of the earth-filled Angat Dam is now 80 percent complete and would be finished this month. He addressed Bulacan officials, residents and dam managers in the Ipo Dam Watershed in a meeting here on Tuesday.

He said the bidding for the 18-month rehabilitation contract would be held before July.

The project, he said, entails construction of support structures to strengthen the dam and increase its water holding capacity.

The improvements may allow the reservoir to hold an additional 600 million milliliters of water per day (mld) or even a maximum of 1,600 million mld, which would raise the spilling level of the dam from 218 meters above sea level (asl) to 218 masl, said Bagsiwal.

After the Japan earthquake and tsunami (last year), I kept asking [President Aquino] to please give priority [to the inspection and strengthening of] the Angat Dam. It went through a process of approval and here it is," he said.

Bulacan officials voiced concern about the dam's safety, saying they wanted to be assured that it could withstand a strong earthquake and would not endanger some 34 million residents if the structure bursts.

The Angat Dam supplies 97 percent of Metro Manila's potable water. It also fuels the Angat River Hydroelectric Power Plant and provides irrigation to 30,000 farmers in Bulacan and Pampanga.

The dam is in Barangay San Lorenzo here. Two smaller dams are located beneath the Angat reservoir: the Ipo and Itogon dams.

Since November last year, a feasibility study has been done to improve the dam's flood-control capacity.

A VIEW of the reservoir of the Angat Dam, one of the main sources of irrigation and potable water for many areas, including Bulacan and Metro Manila. The aging dam is in need of repairs that would cost up to P5 billion.

Airline puts passengers on boat after mess in flight

ZAMBOANGA CITY—When Arnold Esguerra and a companion flew from this city aboard an Air Philippines flight to Jolo (Sulu) on Jan. 30, they were looking forward to a one of a kind adventure—never mind if the flight was delayed for more than two hours.

Esguerra, a researcher and freelance author from Manila, said they spent the whole day of Jan. 30 to explore Bongao.

On Tuesday, they prepared to return to this city to catch a flight back to Manila.

To their surprise, there was no flight available.

Esguerra said the problem was caused by Air Philippines' decision to abruptly change its flight schedule. When they planned to airline officials to fix the problem since they would miss their flight to Manila, Esguerra said they were told on a boat instead.

He said they were forced to buy new tickets because their names' their flights. The hapless tried for hours to get an explanation from Air Philippines here. Esguerra said they were planning to file a case against Air Philippines. Julie Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

PAMPANGA COMPLAINT

UP seeks probe of Army harassment of students

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The University of the Philippines College of Social Work and Community Development (UP CSWCD) has urged the military yesterday to investigate the harassment by members of the Military Intelligence Battalion (MIB) of three students during field work with Aetas in Porac, Pampanga, on Jan. 25.

In a statement signed by Dr. Rosalinda Hinanda-Ofreneo, the UP CSWCD also denounced the incident, saying it "threatens the viability of college programs and derails the practice of its legitimate profession."

"We call on the military chain of command, as the institution to conduct reforms in their operations that result in excesses committed by their personnel," Ofreneo said.

Dr. Jason Dulce, Ricardo Luis Flores and Mariquelle Villar—were on their way to Barangay Kamias in Porac when four men on board a van harassed them.

The men first began asking questions on the identities of the students and accused them of organizing for the New People's Army. They showed them and took photographs of the students.

The students fled as resident expert at the police before leaving the area.

According to the UP CSWCD statement, Staff Sgt. Alfredo Fernandez, the commander of the Citizens Armed Force Geographical Unit (Cafgu) in the area, identified personnel of the MIB as involved in the incident. The cannot be immediately verified with Fernandez.

Maj. Gen. Jose Mabanta, outgoing chief of the Army's 7th Infantry Division, denied that the incident took place, saying that soldiers deployed were assigned in the uplands of Porac, which had been declared as insurgency-free.

The UP CSWCD said it has held a series of dialogues with MIB officials, urging the military's representatives to "recognize and respect the academic integrity and independence of the field work of the universities program of the college, and to duly communicate this to their units in the field."

Timothy Dwight, Inquirer Central Luzon

NOTICES are posted on the door of the St. Joseph Cathedral in San Jose City announcing the closure of the cathedral following the apparent suicide of a clergy official in the church. —INQUIRER PHOTO BY JOVEN CAGUIOA

Nueva Ecija cathedral closed after suicide

SAN JOSE CITY—Officials closed the St. Joseph Cathedral here on Feb. 1 after a village leader died there from what appeared to be a self-inflicted gunshot.

Chief Inspector claimed to have witnessed Alfredo Calimlim, 41, shoot himself after long hours of kneeling at the pew near the center of the cathedral, according to police investigators. Calimlim was the barangay captain of Bagong Sikat.

The church was ordered closed hours after the incident. In a Feb. 1 diocesan decree, church officials ruled that the church death the cathedral "an act of desecration" which would require an equivalent "act of reparation" before it could serve the community again.

The decree was issued by Fr. Homer Bonanan, the administrator of the Diocese of San Jose, and by Fr. Jun Flores, the church chancellor.

Police said Calimlim went to the church in the morning of Feb. 1 after visiting the interior and local government office. Witnesses said Calimlim knelt for hours before he made a sign of the cross and drew out a cal. .45 pistol.

They said Calimlim aimed the pistol at his right temple, and pulled the trigger. He died on the spot.

Police said Calimlim's mobile cellphone contained messages he sent to his wife, who is temporarily abroad, and to one of their three children.

His message to his wife read: "Pinuwersa mo ako sa aking pagkalulong. Di na dapa ng Asuncion ang tugunod ko sa iyo. Patawarin mahal na mahal kita gabe di dapat mo ito gawin sa akin. Mahal na mahal kita gabe di dapat mo ito gawin sa akin. Mahal na mahal kita gabe di dapat mo ito gawin sa akin.

Defense opposes bid for PAL execs to testify vs Corona

By Marlon Ramos and Cynthia D. Balana

SO WHAT'S wrong with the Chief Justice owning a privilege card from the country's flag carrier?

The defense panel yesterday moved for the denial of the prosecutors' motion to summon officials of Philippine Airlines (PAL) to testify on the "platinum cards" that the Lucio Tan-owned airline supposedly granted to impeached Chief Justice Renato Corona and his wife.

Calling it a "travesty" and a "constitutional infirmity," Corona's lawyers told the Senate impeachment court that the subpoenas to require the PAL platinum cards which the Chief Justice and his wife, Cristina, allegedly earned were not related to the third of the eight articles of impeachment.

Article 3 alleges that Corona betrayed the public trust for "allegedly" the Supreme Court's flip-flopping in several cases deemed final and executory, among them the labor case filed by members of the Flight Attendants and Stewards Association of the Philippines (Fasap) against PAL.

"From the foregoing, it is clear that the request is nothing but mere bare attempt to adduce irrelevant and immaterial evidence... in the total taking of leaves of the (prosecution) to fish for evidence," the defense said.

It added: "(This is) in violation of the constitutional right to due process (of Corona), in a desperate scramble for the prosecution to chance upon some information that may be linked to any violations of law or ethics."

The House of Representatives' prosecution panel also asked PAL to bring all documents related to its cases against Fasap, the letter of the airline's lawyer, Estelito Mendoza, to the Supreme Court in connection with the case, and the minutes of the six bank executives of the high court.

Lito Lapid wife's trial in US starts Feb. 7

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The wife of Sen. Lito Lapid will not be requested by the United States Attorney's Office in Nevada to explain the source of her taxable when the hearing on her case for dollar smuggling starts on Feb. 7, according to her American lawyer.

"Where it came from, it doesn't really matter. It's not relevant [to the case]," Ilin Krieger, the counsel of Marissa Tadeo Lapid, said of the $40,000 that authorities found stashed inside and a clutch bag in her luggage.

Marissa failed to report the same amount and only declared $3,000, the maximum that the US government allows tourists to bring into the country.

Still, Krieger in a telephone interview on Thursday, did not say why Marissa, 54, did not declare the bulk of the amount when the accused Las Vegas, Nevada, in November last year.

$500,000 bail

The Department of Homeland Security, he said, arrested his client on Jan. 13 upon her return at the terminal of the agency so she could deal with the case. The US government placed a key illegal citizen on the Las Vegas property of Marissa to cover her $500,000 bail.

Krieger said he was not expecting the Feb. 7 preliminary hearing to determine probable cause based on evidence presented to the US attorney's office.

"Generally, a grand jury might hear the case," he said. "The case is really simple. (She crossed the United States) without reporting the cash she was bringing."

Nevada has 27 jurors, according to a handbook by the University of Dayton School of Law. Lapid's jury proceedings are open.

Asked if Senator Lapid would be required to testify in support of his wife, Krieger said: "At this point, no."

He said his client was "doing fine and comfortable in her home." Marissa's travels have been restricted within Clark County in Nevada and are being monitored. She has been required to wear an ankle bracelet with GPS (global positioning system) linking to give her location.

Pampanga's pride, shame

From page A1

For a few minutes, Bacarisas choked himself and could not say because his eloquence has reverted to membership in the so-called committee on silence, even confidently on Day 12 of the trial's fierce questioning of Filipino and prosecutor witnesses from the Security and Exchange Commission.

Lapid took to the floor on Wednesday of the time when he was in the media spotlight after his an unlikely different case visa at to home. His wife Marissa was charged with dollar smuggling in the United States last week. (**See related story on this page.**)

Kapampangan musician Jose Mauso was hardly surprised by what he saw. He dismissed as "insignificant," for example, Lapid's question on the difference between a "cash advance" and a "loan."

The issue then was about the P11-million loan taken by Corona and wife Cristina from a supposedly vacation company owned by her family in 2000.

'Gentleman from Pampanga'

"First of all, he himself should know the difference between the two terms," Mauso said, adding that Lapid's performance showed the level of his intellect.

"I felt ashamed when (Lapid) was called a 'gentleman from Pampanga,'" he said.

"I still be killed first with his chief of staff before he rose to ask questions [as he could avoid becoming a laughingstock," said lawyer Dante Bartel. "I was hurt, and I felt pity for him."

But for social worker Tess Bersoza, Lapid's incongruence at remarks enough. "Whether he asked the right questions or not, I was glad he was there to stand up to ask questions," she said.

As writer Eunice Lacson, Lapid was "great at being an accidental comic relief in the trial."

'Shining moment'

But for Lapid's own lawyer, Rueda Sagrat, it was a shining moment.

"He did very well. First of all, a senator that has been disbarred cannot transact regular business. Second, upon the questioning, the matter of nondisclosure and betrayal of public trust came up," said Sagrat, a member of the 1971 Constitutional Convention and lawyer of the Chief Justice when Bacarisas when the latter faced impeachment in 2003.

The accused tried to reach Lapid on Thursday, but the senator did not take his calls on his mobile phone.

In spite his debacle when he was still Pampanga governor, Lapid often recounted how he was elected high school because of poverty.

His father, Jose, a carpenter who doubled as a stevedore, died when he was young. His mother, Teodora, worked as a laundrywoman to support four sons and three daughters.

Employment up in 2011

From page A1

enough for them.

"Those applicants, therefore, end up with jobs that offer less hours of work and lower remuneration," he said.

Benjamin E. Diokno of the UP School of Economics said in a text message, "Basically there was no significant improvement in the labor market since last year."

A number of government and private employers have told the Inquirer that they either it's hard to find good applicants or could not afford the compensation level that some of the available ones wanted.

Other companies with long recruitment processes have also missed out on some new hires because they desired small, data-scraped other offers.

Above 2.8 million Filipinos were unemployed in 2011, some 100,000 fewer than the number the year before, according to the NSO.

Among the unemployed, 43 percent were males. Forty-five percent of the jobless had reached high school, 42 percent had college education, and 12.6 percent had elementary education.

The number of underemployed had risen was estimated at 7.2 million. The underemployed are those who want to have additional hours of work in their present job or to have an additional job, or even to get a new job with longer working hours.

Of the underemployed, 58 percent were reported as visibly underemployed or those working less than 40 hours during the reference week. Those working 40 hours or more accounted for 30.4 percent of the underemployed.

In terms of labor force participation, some 40 million of the 68.8 million 15 years old and over were "economically active," a participation rate of 64.6 percent, the NSO said. In 2010, the labor force participation rate was at 64.1 percent.

The labor force participation rate shows how many "working age" Filipinos are willing and able to work and are either employed or actively seeking jobs.

Excluded

Those who are not looking for work, those who are institutionalized (in prisons or in hospital) and those serving in the military are excluded when measuring the participation rate.

Among the employed, 52.2 percent were in the services sector, 33 percent were in agriculture and 14.9 percent were in the industry sector.

Of those in the services sector, the largest group consisted of workers in the wholesale and retail, repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles and personal and household goods. They made up 20 percent of the total employed population.

Unskilled largest group

Among occupation groups, laborers and unskilled workers comprised the largest group (32.6 percent). This group was followed by farmers, forestry workers and fishermen (31.4 percent); officials of the government and special interest organizations, corporate executives, managers, managing proprietors and supervisors (14 percent); and service workers and market sales workers (12.1 percent).

The majority of the employed were wage and salary workers (55.2 percent). Most of them worked in private establishments (41.5 percent of the total employed). About 17.9 percent

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OPINION

Less poor, still hungry

EDITORIAL

MOCK-HUMOR seems to characterize Malacañang's reaction to the recent survey of the Social Weather Stations, which showed some 4.8 million families in the country going hungry in the last quarter of 2011, up by some 400,000 families from the previous quarter. Presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte said the two surveys were "statistically identical." The

She said the last-quarter survey showed self-rated poverty going down to just 45 percent in December, from 52 percent in the previous survey. In short, even though people who rate themselves poor have gone down, many still remain hungry and in want. We don't know if this is what Valte means by "statistically identical."

Considering indeed that the hunger rates in the two quarters are statistically alike given the margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points, Valte might have a point. But a survey in the first quarter of 2012 may give everyone a better perspective on whether or not policies of the Aquino administration to promote "inclusive growth" are indeed taking effect, as Valte claimed.

In the meantime, Valte said the Aquino administration would continue "to aggressively pursue programs meant to address the needs of vulnerable sectors" by expanding the coverage of the conditional cash transfer (CCT) program with a budget of P39.5 billion. In addition, Budget Secretary Florencio Abad has announced that some 398,000 indigent elderly will each receive a monthly pension of P500 this year after the government earmarked P1.2 billion for this segment of the population. The amount is 38 percent higher than the P671 million given out last year to senior citizens aged 75 and older. Also, the number of beneficiaries rose by 43 percent to 398,370 from the previous year's 138,980.

We have always supported the CCT and social pensions since they're more direct social safety net measures to shield the poor from hunger. But they should be carried out in tandem with effective government interventions in the economy. Moreover, loopholes in the CCT may have to be plugged in order for it to really aid its beneficiaries.

The Commission on Audit said the CCT beneficiaries in 2010 included people who owned hectares of land, cars, a sari-sari sidestore, an Internet shop and a grains trading business—not exactly destitute folks in desperate need of up to P1,400 a month in assistance the government provides them. Other beneficiaries were local government employees and public school teachers who earned regular salaries. There were also those who were into illegal gambling and other vices.

While plugging the loopholes in the CCT and safety net programs, there's also need for government planning and intervention in the economy. As it is, the Philippine economy, as measured by the gross domestic product, was estimated to have grown only between 3.6 and 4 percent in 2011, according to the National Economic Development Authority. This is due to large part to the double-digit decline in exports in the last half of the year, which is in sharp contrast to the growth in export of neighboring economies even amid global slowdown. Part of the problem here is that Philippine exports are concentrated in electronics, so there's a need really to diversify our exports. But diversification would need proper economic planning, which leaves much to be desired.

To be sure, going by the lethargic government spending, the administration seems at a loss on where to invest and how to jump-start the economy. Inadequate infrastructure has impeded sustained growth so government must spend on public works. Infrastructure too will create more employment opportunities. It must be pointed out that the Philippines has not made a major structural transformation such that unemployment remains high, which exacerbates poverty and hunger. Four in every 10 working adults are either self-employed at menial jobs or unpaid family workers. Many are underemployed. All of them are vulnerable to crises and shocks that could easily battle them down the poverty trap. Without strong government spending and world recovery, higher growth in the near years may be wishful thinking, and poverty and hunger ratings may remain "statistically identical."

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Gunfight at the Camp John Hay Corral?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE RADIO Regional Trial Court has issued another 17-day temporary restraining order (TRO) against a forcible takeover of Camp John Hay by the government. The Baron Consunji Development Authority (BCDA) and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza) Corp. (CDCPeza), developers of the former American rest and recreation camp, have been locked in dispute over the three-year extension of the developer's contract with the BCDA.

CDCPeza's contract with the BCDA and its subsidiary, senior manager John Hay Management Corp. (Jhmc), is expiring. Jhmc is refusing to vacate control and/or possession of the property subject of the contract any post-dearest on finding all requirements found therein. It has petitioned CDCPeza's and to prevent claiming rights to the leased property or portions thereof from said petitioners, including any act of forcible entry or forceful occupation, control or possession of said petitioners or its authorized representatives and/or any denial of rights in the subject property to users entry."

This is the second attempt by the BCDA to forcibly take over control of the property. The same armed battle was employed by the former head of the BCDA, former AFP chief of staff Hermon Aliaso, at Rizo Base. The intrigue failed and served only to create an atmosphere of fear among the residents and investors in the area brought in hostile armed groups in a bid to take over the Fort Pond and Rockland. Images in media of Aliaso's troops flying at civilian guards raised serious questions regarding BCDA's ability to protect its constituents, despite successive Chief Executives.

Executive was Aliaso's chief legal officer during Ramos' presidency. Aliaso's troops were replaced by private forces here, again, as Aliaso later appears to have been installed legally by Consunji.

Prior to the reported planned takeover, Consunji had gone on a public relations bid to lay down the premise that CDCPeza is in arrears and that BCDA is left with no options but to retake the facility.

We do not want to argue with Consunji on the legal points. He must be a brilliant lawyer to be able to convince leaders like Aliaso and current BCDA Chair Felicito Payumo to take highly moves like armed takeovers. But we hope he is aware of the fallout that such violent confrontation at John Hay could bring about. The possible collateral damage could be irreparable. Imagine what could happen if shooting broke out and innocent people are killed.

Report: CDB could be the biggest collateral damage. That is why Mayor Mauricio Domogan is reportedly worried over Consunji's planned armed takeover. Already, Baguio is losing a good share of the tourist market to other spots discovered by locals like Subic. John Hay is Baguio's major attraction in the high-end tourist market. Images of the prime destination caught in a shoot-out like Fort Bonifacio is sure to drive away Mayor Domogan's visitors.

My concern: Consunji's plan is to kick out CDCPeza and replace it with his own investors. That could take some time because Consunji will have to clear the entire of his tenants with some kind of legitimacy such as a semblance of public bidding. What will happen to John Hay in the meantime? The possibilities are grim. Consunji's armed groups will have to barricade its perimeter, probably with sandbags and machine guns. The place will look like a garrison until Consunji is able to legally justify the entry of his new investors and reopen the hotels.

In the meantime, while John Hay is guarantined, Baguio will not have much to navigate with. John Hay's absence is more Baguio's top hotel, but who will stay at Manor while Consunji's armed thugs are patrolling the entrance to the lobby?

BCDA insiders say Consunji's planned takeover is based largely on the premise that BCDA is the landlord and CDCPeza is a mere tenant. Therefore, the former can kick out the latter anytime, even without a court order. Consunji must believe this is legally tenable. But that is not the way business is run. You do not settle business disputes and deliver threats. BCDA already tried that at Fort Point. Aliaso failed there.

The way to do this is to let the court settle the dispute. Consunji, I believe, should continue a court that it has run out of options in its conflict with CDCPeza and that the court should therefore intervene. The legal matter may be more protracted, but that's why there are lawyers. Resorting to legal processes would avoid a scenario where a trusted former lieutenant gets shot.

That may be the problem with Consunji: he is not a businessman. As such, he is not sensitive to the voice of business. But that is why Payumo is there as chair. Maybe Payumo can help Consunji see the bigger picture.

The problem is evidently known who is calling the shots at BCDA. Payumo apparently has no direct line to the Palace.

But Payumo should at least remind Consunji that Pnoy's main economic policy is based on the principle that the country is open for business. We all have a stake here. And we don't want Consunji's cowboy tendencies to rule the day.

Impeachment trial in sign language

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

BIL THEY is not about negotiations signals coming from the senator-judges or from the cabinet members about unless the impeachment trial is going. This is how it should sign language, and this "noise" or the small fact that you see on the TV screen if you watch on ABC, showing an interpreter who translates the proceedings in sign language by the deaf. That is a triumph for Filipino deaf rights advocates, but their fight is long journey ahead.

According to Dr. Lara Maniscan, founder and director of the Philippine Deaf Resource Center, sign language needs appointed on Philippine TV for the first time on Channel 5 for the 2010 State of the Nation Address of President Aquino, his very first. That same channel has since established these practices and there is currently running one-hour news program. Another channel, ABS-CBN, has also aired sign language news, but only in their Central Visayas and Davao news broadcasts and not yet for programs that are broadcast nationwide.

There is a bill pending full before Congress, the Sign Language Inside for News Programs act, that will make these news mandatory. The reasoning is, the Magna Carta for Disabled Persons (Republic Act 7277), mandates obligation rather subtly. TV stations are "encouraged to provide sign language inset or subtitles in at least one newscast program a day and special programs covering events of national significance." Technicalities "qualified to represent [the] individuals with hearing impairments" is "ambiguity-ridden services."

The proposed sign language inset act will correct the Magna Carta's legislative clause to a binding obligation. Sponsored by Reps. Neri Colmenares and Teddy Casiño (Bayan Muna Party-List), it will require sign language TV news inserts, noting that the inset is performed over narrow strips because less than 5 percent of the reported 120,000 deaf Filipinos are literate. Last week, Benito Mayo-Imin testified before a congressional committee that the interpreter should be given a choice between the inset and captions, hopefully to make it more acceptable to the networks and likewise enable them to adapt to the available literacy levels of deaf people in the Philippines.

Tess Dayson, then head of the broadcast arm Filipinas. There was that case about the deaf rape victim who could not be heard during the trial because there was no sign language interpreter. But the complaint was thrown out on the ground that it relied on hearsay evidence. Hearsay evidence from the rape victim herself? Yup, you got that right. The hearsay rule says: "A witness can testify only to those facts which he knows of his personal knowledge; that is, which are derived from his own perception." So when the sign language interpreter spoke, she could properly be asked: how did you actually witness the rape? Those lawyers should be taught that training for an interpreter is not the ability to speak in Chinese or Filipino (using by the subway-type sounds, all sentences that have to be considered a testimonial hearsay!

There was also the deaf man who was invited on Quiz Bee recruiting amateur parents for the show. With his mother as interpreter, he was disqualified by an interpretation which came under interrogation) rule questioned the authenticity of his responses: he was deaf, doubtlessly there is also stories of cases where deaf passengers were either busted from boarding or off-loaded even after they had been cleared before.

The translators have to sign language interpreters to merely the first step. The Supreme Court (examining the Chief Justice takes kindly to the "signing") should likewise require courts to provide sign language interpreters for deaf witnesses. Without such an order, deaf witnesses can testify only by hiring and paying for their own interpreters. This poses several problems.

First, there is the problem of cost. This is tantamount to quoting a price tag on the truth. It would be unfair to think that fair price tag would chase from the outset the cost of litigation goes way beyond the professional fees of the lawyers, and goes into the invisible costs and risks that the court may not be able to take into battle. But the cost, i.e., sign language translation, must be borne by the state if it is to make good on the constitutional guarantee of equal treatment and the international obligation of treaties to which the country is a party.

Second, there is the requisition of the sign language interpreter themselves. There is the issue of competence. Without a Supreme Court regulation, say Yes, Dick and Harry can purport to translate the "sign" testimony. There is also the issue of ethics. What if the Yes, Dick or Harry is so good he can improve the testimony or, worse, embellish or distort it? We need a system of accreditation to confirm the open but lesser-number that exists today.

Third, the Supreme Court regulation should clarify the rules of evidence. Will the admissibility of sign language translations be hearsay rule applied to the witness himself or herself, not to the interpreter who merely translates what the witness says into a language that the court can understand.

ABC's sign language inset for impeachment trial is laudable, but is not all. But the administration of law ready on Philippine years of real deaf disenfranchisement. It will be held at 8:30 p.m. at the UP College of Social Work & Community Development.

Unforgiving economy

ANALYSIS

Armando Doronila

THE NEGLECTED economic sector is underperforming in its demand that the two-year-old Aquino administration lift its game to deliver the desired economic results. It is holding the government accountable for its poor economic performance after the economy grew by 3.7 percent in 2011, down from 7.6 percent in 2010 before it took office.

The sector stepped up the clamor to hold the the Aquino administration accountable for the sluggishness early in its term, even as it noted that the government was showing extraordinary zeal in pursuing its anti-corruption campaign, aimed at crackdown to jail administration officials accused of corrupt practices. The clamor for better results in the economy heightened amid the current impeachment trial of Chief Justice Renato Corona, who is associated with the ousted Arroyo administration, and who hears the brunt of the anti-corruption drive. The clamor has emphasized the theme that the economy stopped here, if not equal, attention than the anti-graft campaign, because the economy produces wealth while the clean-up drive has produced no economic benefits and nothing more than disgust and disillusionment mentality inattentive on honesty and performance in office.

Following the disclosure of the dip in the GDP for 2011, the International Monetary Fund exhorted the government to spend more on public infrastructure to support any expansion in economic activity.

In a press conference in Washington D.C., Anoop Singh, director of the Asia and Pacific department, said, "our estimate is that the Philippines, in terms of the medium term growth potential targets, will be within range, and even higher." But, the main point is, in order to achieve the potential, the country needs to increase investments significantly in public infrastructure, he said. Philippine government statistics show that the 3.7 percent GDP growth in 2011 was merely half of the government's target of 7.0-8.0 percent for 2011 (click). President Aquino did not appear concerned about the drop in the growth rate and did not indicate he would push his economic team agenda to boost expansion.

The IMF has twice downgraded its growth forecast for the Philippine since December. It said the country might achieve 4.2 percent growth in 2012, lower than the 4.8 percent estimated in September. In April, the outlook was a higher 5 percent.

Last month, the IMF's updated World Economic Outlook downgraded the forecast for the Asian-5 bloc, of which the Philippines is a member, to 4.6 percent, 5.4 percent and 5.6 percent, for 2011, 2012 and 2013, respectively, from September's 5.2 percent, 5.4 percent and 5.8 percent, respectively.

"The global recovery is threatened by intensifying strains in the euro area and fragilities elsewhere," the Outlook said. "Financial conditions have deteriorated, growth prospects have dimmed, and downside risks have escalated."

In early January, the Joint Foreign Chambers of Commerce in the Philippines, presented a monograph, titled Ayaglakda Philippines 2013, which said the country has to move "twice as fast" as such up with the growth of the region.

"The biggest challenge facing the Philippines is how to accelerate it to a higher level of growth and revenue," the report said. "For Capita Income (PCI) barely grew during the 1980s and 1990s with boom-bust cycles triggered by political events and high population growth. Of the decade, for the past five decades, the Philippines had the lowest GDP and PCI growth." But more ominous economic catching problems and challenges, the Philippines is bogged down on dousing up its political and judicial systems without a blueprint for accelerating economic growth. The current political leadership down economic priorities and loathes to do its homework.

Secrets, a mystery

I HAVE a double treat for readers today. First, with some reluctance, I'm going to share some of the best kept secrets not just in the Philippines but in the world. For the second part of my column, I'm going to ask you to help a team of subalterns to solve a mystery of great importance for the Philippines.

Jobs

Let me start with a background to the secrets I'm going to divulge. Today in Jan-

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

uary one of our new anthropology graduates, Dante, came to me to ask for advice about jobs. At one point, he told me how surprised he was to find, in the classified ads, so opening in the Asian Development Bank which stated that they wanted applicants with a social sciences degree.

I told Dante such ads are quite common, especially from United Nations and government organizations. I paused and then told him, "That's one of the best kept secrets in the world: a social sciences degree is an advantage when it comes to jobs. The problem is deciding which jobs to take."

That number, plus an inspiring Ada line at our College of Social Sciences and Philosophy in the Diliman, introduced me I had to do a crash course in the perspectives on economics. At the Ada line there are all kinds of private companies, as well as the National Economic Development Authority (Neda) and the Presidential Management Staff (pms, I think?). PMS's with "headhunting" hostile. All but two hostile, and its staff told me they would have liked to see more of my social science classes speaking to me. Despite many job postings, majority for human relations training, that need to be filled up right away.

One of the staff said their problem for trainees was especially acute when it comes to getting males. I sighed, there we have many more women than men among our social science students.

So, male or female, if you have a degree in the social sciences, do come to the job fair, which ends today, Friday.

The difficulties of the headhunters are ironic considering that Filipino parents, including my own, usually try to block their children from taking a social science degree, thinking there's no future in it. Even as a child, I was chided for my love of science. It's actually psychology as a pre-med degree, or political science to prepare for law school. But many parents are unaware that our college's degrees—anthropology, history, sociology, geography, linguistics, political science—do very well as a pre-med or pre-law degree. I'm sure we also have philosophy and psychology majors who do well in medicine and law, and economics, artists in sought by another unit at UP.

Early this week Chito Guerzon spoke to us at college, the first of what I hope will be a series of alumni talking about how the social sciences shaped their lives. Chito was a philosophy major and student leader, and had to interrupt studies because he was detained under the 1986 Constitutional Commission to represent the youth. He came back after the Constitution was completed to finish his philosophy degree and then went on to law.

Over at anthropology, we've produced several graduates who went on to medicine, prepared with a heavy dose of lectures around zoology, genetics and even anatomy, plus courses on nursing and public health. Some have gone on to write reviewer's nothing to get through psychology's quota, our anthropology department, which also has a quota but which doesn't get filled as quickly, is able to give more personalized attention to smaller classes.

The social sciences have a strong tradition of liberalism, which is reason good enough to think out of the box and to challenge traditions, as they said up teaching, doing research, or in management, administration, marketing, or opening up their own business.

Social sciences are flexible, able to move into all kinds of niches and when they can't find one, they end up creating it. Who would have thought that a degree in Sociology-Anthropology would be an occupation. There are people hired to look at what's going on out in the streets and in shops and to predict what could become a profitable trend in fashions, in food, in furniture, for example, anthropologists do very well in this area.

My core world is that of development and public health and, again, we lack social scientists who can give fresh insights into health problems. I should NGO U and to work with has been looking for several months now for a deputy director, again preferably with a social science degree.

So, there, I've spilled the beans on the social sciences but I have to warn you, we do have strict quotas on admissions. Come next week, the College of Social Sciences and Philosophy will be a waiting area to transfer to other units, or a dumping ground for people who fail to other colleges. Flunking a social sciences degree isn't easy either, our faculty consistently grading students to ask questions, and to be bold with possible solutions.

The not saying there are no jobless social scientists. We have them, as there are jobless engineers and biologists and chemists, but I'll dare say we have more options to fall back on.

The mystery of impunity

Now to the mystery. I'm hoping some of you can help us, a bunch of social science students.

I'm involved in a Unesco project to look into impunity and the killing of journalists in the Philippines. Our project leader is political scientist Dr. Clarita Carlos. Other team members are former constitutional commissioner Florangel Rosal, lit. theorist Bienvenido, Dr. Rolando Tolentino, lawyer Jose Didoko and myself. We've assisted by a team of journalism gathering statistics.

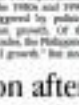
The reported numbers of assassinated journalists vary, depending on who does the counting, but are definitely have the dubious distinction of killing the most journalists in the world, the number's showing up especially with the Ampatuan massacre two years ago when 32 journalists were brutally murdered, together with 25 other people.

In likewise, another country with many numbers of journalists, the killings are blamed on the drug cartels. Journalists are silenced because they speak about these syndicates. In the Philippines, the killings seem to relate to politics, but we still don't know for sure. The impunity is such that it's so easy for politicians to hire assassins, and for the assassins to pull the trigger. In one recent case, the assassin entered the house of the journalist, pressed her politely, then shot her point blank. Tell us what you think about why are moved from a time when journalists were revered, considered almost untouchable, where not even the military dictatorship tampered with the journalists, their distant true end of democracy.

Note that we consider as journalist anyone who works in print or broadcast media, even if they don't have a degree in journalism.

We have some theories around the impunity involved in these killings, but I don't want to bias you in what you think of it yet. You can post your hunches in Inquirer's blog but there's a tendency for a "mob effect" and numbers on the site, so I'll prefer that you e-mail me. I'll share your thoughts with the team and later, when we get our work done, we'll send you our findings. Help us solve the mystery and maybe we can begin to find ideas to effective ways to stop the killings.

Milk and malnutrition after 'Sendong'



AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

MORE THAN 40 days after the onslaught of floods brought on by Tropical Storm "Sendong," there are good news and bad news.

The good news, as reported by Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman in my column last Wednesday, is that survivors in Cagayan de Oro and Iligan City and environs are, as they say, "moving on." Some families previously living in evacuation and temporary shelters have returned or are back forward to moving into their own houses in safer areas. Mental health professionals are being recruited to help with the mental, emotional and spiritual recovery of those traumatized by the disaster, especially those children. In short, in the after-all areas, response has moved on from recovery and relief to rehabilitation and rebuilding.

But the bad news, according to UNICEF, is that malnutrition among children in the affected areas has increased, and could worsen in the coming days. During the latest screening supported by Unicef, 267 children were found to be severely malnourished, a 50-percent increase compared to the initial screening carried out right after the early deadly tidings by the floods. (Although Unicef notes that the sample size used was small.)

Sendong is severe, only made a bad situation worse. "Malnutrition is an especially serious concern for children under five," Unicef Country Director Lotta Sylwander said. "The increase in malnutrition rates may be attributed to this compromised food supply and the food quality of families who are now displaced. For infants, an exacerbating factor is their weakened immune system and diarrhea, which undermines breastfeeding, leading to a loss of the protective nutrients found in breast milk. Lack of sanitary breastfeeding puts babies' health in jeopardy, because of the increased risk of diarrhea and other infections. Globally, an infant not breastfed is six times more likely to die."

From our own personal experience, bottle-feeding should be strongly discouraged when formula is brought into the mix. One needs access to a reliable supply of potable water and of fuel/electricity to boil it. The bottles and nipples need to be sterilized by boiling them, and the sterilized supplies and powdered milk itself must be kept away from contaminants. Even when all these items have been prepared properly, many things can make the milk unsafe: flies and other insects flitting on the bottles, bottles being dropped repeatedly on dirty floors, unclean hands handling the water, supplies and milk.

It is at this point that the health of babies are not breastfed are vulnerable to infection and to developing diarrhea. Babies with diarrhea easily become malnourished and dehydrated and severe at real risk of death."

* * *

NOT only babies are vulnerable. Children under five years, says Unicef, especially those under two years, "are also at risk of increased illness and death in emergencies. Breastfeeding still provides these children with the best chance of survival. Breastfeeding be continued until at least two years of age. Young children also need enough nourishing food that is safely prepared—this too can be a real challenge in an emergency."

This brings us to the problem of donations of powdered formula or milk, which are among the first and most common items sent in response to disasters. "In the confusion that surrounds emergencies, these products are often distributed in an uncontrolled way and used by mothers who would otherwise breastfeed their babies," says Unicef, stating that the donations are of doubtful milk "results in unnecessary illness and death for infants."

An investigation of the post-flood death of more than 900 children in Indonesia in 2005-2006 found that nearly all the babies who died were formula-fed. That 50 of hospitalized for babies who were not breastfed were 10 times greater than that of breastfed infants.

Preventive tactics for bottle-fed infants likewise apply to young children. The water used in mix the milk must be safe and potable, and the cups and glasses used must be clean. Otherwise, the children run the risk of falling ill from diarrhea and other water-borne diseases.

What an awful (unintended) lot for donors who believed that donations of milk to disaster survivors would alleviate children's hunger and improve their health!

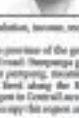
* * *

PUBLIC says Unicef, some milk marketers may even use an emergency, such as the post-flooding situations, "to enter new markets and increase sales." Already, the Department of Health has issued a cease-and-desist order to a major milk manufacturer which was distributing its own infant and child milk formula brands to relief goods for distribution, in violation of Milk Code rules that prevent them from giving samples to the public.

Thus, Unicef appeals to the public who may want to donate milk to bombing survivors not to give the milk directly to affected populations, but rather give the milk to the appropriate authority, such as the DOH, so that distribution of milk will be done in accordance with health guidelines.

Meanwhile, Unicef suggests that mothers who are breastfeeding "should be given support and practical assistance to continue." While mothers who have stopped breastfeeding may, slowly, have to relactate, stopped breastfeeding, and the option of wet nursing (where another mother breastfeeds the baby) should be explored for babies without mothers."

The gentleman from Pampanga



LOOKING BACK

Arnoldo B. Geronimo

BECAUSE OF Sen. Lito Lapid's mask reveal of hanging mum on the Senate floor during debates and discussions, everyone was surprised to see and hear him on the mute-ass during the impeachment trial. But those of us who have known him since his days as a boxing champion and movie actor, and who enjoy dramatic debates and rowdy press conferences, it was a welcome surprise to learn that the quiet gentleman from Pampanga has actually filed many bills. Media from the time he was in the House of Representatives, much of their research called from daily press briefings, and I wonder if those covering the Senate and the House of Representatives dig into those daily volumes of congressional records published by the Government Printing Office. The budget is all in detail need to be available to print. I have always wondered why media wants to stop searching for scandal and wrongdoing to discredit people in government when a simple service project can be spotlighted as well.

For example, Congress makes an accounting to the people through daily published volumes known as the Congressional Record. These contain the business of the day including statements, speeches, debates and discussions. Included for the record. Should Congress bar newspaper space for an annual report to the people on the laws they have passed? That should include the attendance record of each legislator, including the number of times he or she voted yes or no. The number bills did each legislator file? How many ended up approved as laws? Do these bills contribute to the progress of their constituents and the nation, or are they as outgrowths of the pet projects of visiting friends and relatives, or of the ever-increasing wives and school buildings? How did legislators vote on important or controversial bills? This annual accounting will help in the education of the public, resulting in intelligent choices during elections. Of course, it will be a big task for a library.

Shoulder's all disaster-prepared in the House each have a one-page data sheet that shows their respective geographic positions vis-a-vis map and base information on land area, agricultural products, industry, current rates on population, income, mortality and recovery rates, etc.

American historian John Larkin divided Pampanga into three regions: first the mountainous region of Zambales and Bataan (which is the only mountain to break the monotony of the Central Luzon plain) that have little agricultural use. The Zambales side is occupied by Negritos, and Aetas but not historically cultivated.

The second region is along the Rio Grande and is it botanists. This is the area where the fishing industry developed. The classification also includes the Candaba swamp, which becomes a lake during the rainy season and is also a source of fish. During the dry season, the swamplands is planted for the next year's rice.

The third region in the land mass which is also planted with rice.

Aside from its agriculture, which produces handicraft products for the Manila, other industries have developed, like the furniture and woodcarving industries in Betis, and making sweets in Sta. Rita. Some towns specialized on an other: Angeles like eggplant and ego. Cuss is known as a boneyard scale. Bradley is known for its pottery and Arayat for its hilltop cemetery. Mexico is the "egg basket" of Pampanga, till those bird growing, cattle raising, crocodile tree breeding, rabbit raising, duck raising, and pigs are helping the Pampangas to diversify by providing the necessary stuff which Pampanga has in abundance.

During the Spanish colonial regime, when the province was still mainly agricultural, the right of peers plains surrounding Mt. Arayat was enough to make a French traveler remark that "the prosperity of Pampanga is the most beautiful and the richest in the Philippines and has been, for this reason, called New Castile."

This 39-year old provincial profile in my notes made me wonder why I did not write about other provinces and towns. Then I recalled all my newspaper information into an obscure. So many projects, so little time.

Comments are welcome to my Facebook Fan Page.

'Refuting' the Chief Justice

THE RITES on the news item titled "Corona on 'ill-gotten wealth': Incontrovertible" (Inquirer, 1/12/12) "do beg to disagree with Chief Justice Renato Corona.

1. It was not meant for him to accept his midnight appointment as chief justice amid the controversy that accompanied it.

2. It is not brilliant—but tonally pathetic—for him to portray that the Supreme Court decision on the Hacienda Luisita case is the reason the Aquino administration is trying to get him out of the Supreme Court. When President Aquino refused to take his oath of office before Corona, the Supreme Court had not yet decided on the Hacienda Luisita case. If Noy had been awaiting Corona's acceptance of the chief justice position as illegal long before the Hacienda Luisita case was decided. This Hacienda Luisita thing is an afterthought, a case of putting the cart before the horse.

3. It was not intelligent for Corona—when he was asked for the first time why he accepted the controversial appointment—to answer that "It was my destiny, and the thrust of every lawyer is to be a chief justice." Partner, his Senate lingming was offered the position of nineteen justices of the Supreme Court long before former Chief Justice Hilario Davide was named to the Supreme Court, but he declined because, he said, there were others more deserving of the position. The appointment has never been accepted by the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) to the position of chief justice, and whose names were on the JBC list with Corona's, declined the recommendation, citing as reasons the clear and paramount provisions of the Constitution. Corona seems never to have grasped the sacredness of the position of chief justice. It is not a matter of ambition, as he's called it.

4. It is plainly foolish for Corona to assume that the public believes the declaration in his statement of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN) that the 300-sq.m condominium unit he purchased in the Bellagio court only P6.5 million. One parking lot already costs P2 million. Assuming that the parking unit has an area of 12 sq.m., it therefore makes the value of the 300-sq.m condominium unit at least P40 million (12 sq.m at 2 m x 300 sq.m = 600 sq.m. And the market value per square meter of a condominium unit costs much higher than that in parking lot? Is it safe to infer from the above that "fortunes long are temporary" and "chickens, etc." which are honorable and acceptable reasons for resigning. Remember that the case arose in the impeachment trial in Corona's moral fitness to be chief justice, a responsibility that at one time or another was held by noble patriots like Jose P. Laurel, Claudio Teehankee and Davide. It is not the Supreme Court that is essential before the Senate, it is the person who may destroy the institution that he is supposed to serve.

—JESUS MORO CENTENO III,
League of Attorneys and Union of Reformists for the Improvement of Liberty Laurels,
Sta. Cruz, Pérez, Carandangan,
apol_hom@yahoo.com

Inhibition for Drilon, why not Arroyo too?

THE DEFENSE panel's call for Sen. Franklin Drilon's inhibition from the impeachment trial to entitle to the Filipino people who voted him into office and whose interests he officially represents, in manner his perceived political affiliation. That his line of questioning led to the disclosure of Chief Justice Renato Corona's statements of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN) by an investigative journalist is regrettable. Rather, it shows how impressively Drilon, as a senator judge and as a representative of the people, takes his responsibility to ascertain the truth behind the allegations against the Chief Justice.

If the "opportunity" is a ground for the inhibition of senator-judges, then perhaps the prosecution should also call for the inhibition of Sen. Joker Arroyo, whose line of questioning tried to block the testimony of Gus Lagman, the head of the Bureau of Internal Revenue. Arroyo even explicitly stated that the SBI should refrain from conducting a parallel investigation on the income tax returns of the Coronas.

The public is surely interested in finding out how individuals being on government wages—or with an ostensible income—can afford to purchase and maintain prominent properties. Impeachment or not, these therapeutics merit an investigation, given that the property values are vastly disproportionate to the incomes involved.

—CHARE SAN ANDRES,
chardes.sanandres@gmail.com

LETTERS

Interesting PDI editorials

I THANK the Inquirer for the positive editorial "Philippines 2050," (Inquirer, 1/29/12) that underscored the importance of the human capital and praised University of Santo Tomas' contribution to education. In the same positive editorial, it rare thing for the country.

Likewise, I read the featured editorial "Literature," (Inquirer, 1/24/12) I focused on the Bible and literature and praised St. Paul's Society for conducting the National Bible Quiz and urged the youth to join it.

Interesting times. I wonder who wrote the book to fault-willie-ride. Be that as it may, thank you, Lord!

—LIC. DIOSCORO LUAD,
jose_sic2003@yahoo.com

RELATIVES of missing UP students Sherlyn Cadapan and Karen Empeño hold a rally against Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan and former President Gloria Arroyo in front of the Office of the Ombudsman in Quezon City. —MARIANNE BERMUDEZ

Palparan's case argues for restoration of death penalty

kill. It sometimes blamed it the chief of Erodgon that was organized by rebel Hilter to go after the Jews and the Germans who were against the Nazi government. Behind Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan is said to have been allowed to go with-hunting after those perceived to be against the government, most specifically suspected communist rebels, during the presidency of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. And many of his alleged victims were young students who were disappeared, and many of whom were believed to have "been tortured and even killed."

Under the present administration of President Aquino, the government has charged Palparan and several military men for the abduction of UP students Karen Empeño and Sherlyn Cadapan.

Palparan and one of his co-accused are now in hiding. If they are not guilty of the crimes they are accused of, why are they running from the law? This is an opportunity for them to prove they are innocent, if indeed they are. Pilipinos from Batanes to Tawi-Tawi believe Palparan was behind human rights violations committed by government soldiers.

Government should restore the death sentence. People found guilty of committing heinous crimes have no place in our democratic society.

—RODRIGO L. VALDEZ,
Pi Pajaros Avenue,
Pajaro Site

Sans permanent campus, UP-P looking to uncertain future

I DON'T know if you have ever heard of a proud school—which has gone through a lot of uncertainties—no permanent home or name and was almost phased out.

The school started as UP Extension Center in Pampanga (UPEC) in 1972. It was then housed in the old municipal building in Pulilan, San Fernando, Pampanga. In the 1990s, it was threatened by labor UP authorities thought of phasing it out. We protested and rallied. How could UP phase out a branch of the country's premier school when it was serving hundreds of young men and women in Central Luzon, who would not afford a costly education in Manila? A letter of mine about this came out in the Inquirer's letters section on Sept. 30, 1992. After it was published, would you believe, the UP president then personally met with us students. I remember him telling us, "Bakit nag-sakit pa kayo sa inyong sarili?"

Eventually UP decided that UP Pampanga (UPP) would stay. But months later, our campus was transferred to Clark, in an old, dilapidated building—again. Temporarily, we were told.

Now, a permanent school campus is supposed to be built inside Clark for UP Clark. But again, its development is beset with problems. Construction work has been stalled. Even the mayor of our city is wondering why and where the allocated funding for this project is.

I hope this letter will help save UP Pampanga again. May it remain an educational institution here in Central Luzon to benefit hundreds of youth who cannot pay for a good education elsewhere. We cannot afford to lose UP Pampanga. We need this school for the young people of Central Luzon.

—MARITES DAÑGUILASAN,
1818 Liana St., Angeles City 2009

IPO to create a lot of millionaires

SAN FRANCISCO—The gruffly smart who took Facebook stock instead of cash for painting the walls of the social network's first headquarters made a sweet bet.

The shares owned by the artist, David Choe, are expected to be worth upward of $200 million when Facebook stock trades publicly later this year.

The social network company announced its $5.5-billion initial public offering (IPO) on Wednesday afternoon, which is expected to value the whole company at $75 billion to $100 billion.

Assuming that $90 will mean a lot of billionaires and millionaires.

Some of them are well-known, like Mark Zuckerberg, the company's cofounder.

Zuckerberg, 27, has 533.6 million shares, worth $48.4 billion based on a conservative valuation of $100 billion, or $90 a share. He also has undisputed control of the company, a remarkable achievement since the company has received $-something from Peter, the billionaire connector, and a $500,000 investment in Facebook in late 2004. He has 44.7 million shares that could be worth more than $4 billion.

Elevation Partners, the venture capital firm of Bono, the U2 frontman, paid $120 million for a chunk of Facebook's shares in 2010 and could receive a huge payout.

Accel Partners, whose principal partner, Jim Breyer, invested in the start-up seven years ago, holds 20.4 million shares. Accel could have a thousand-fold return on some of its investment.

Sheryl Sandberg, the company's chief operating officer, holds 1.9 million shares, about 0.1 percent of the company. But she also has options for 30.1 million additional shares, making her one of the richest in a tiny club of billion Valley women who are billionaires.

Marc Andreessen, the founder of Netscape and now a Silicon Valley venture capitalist, invested early on Facebook and holds 2.8 million shares worth nearly $200 million.

Enormous value

The projected value of Facebook is enormous, the largest an record for an Internet company, even several times greater than Google's offering in 2004.

The social network, founded in Zuckerberg's dorm room at Harvard eight years ago, is expected to be valued at as much as $75 billion. Shares of Facebook have already traded on the secondary market, where private shares are bought and sold, above $60 billion.

And unlike Google's initial public offering, a large chunk of the wealth tied to Facebook has already been realized, thanks to the thriving secondary market and an eager pool of global investors.

Even if Facebook hits only the low end of expectations for its offering, it will still yield some of the greatest returns in the history of venture capital.

"Facebook will create insane amounts of money to the early stakeholders," said Alex Gould, a technology investor and investment at the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research, which tracks underlying startup returns for several years.

Big-winners circle

"Facebook is not just a fund maker; it's a firm maker," Gould added.

DST Global, the investment firm led by the Russian billionaire Yuri Milner, owns roughly a 7 percent stake in Facebook. It bought the bulk of its shares from 2009 to 2011 at valuations of $10.2 billion to $16 billion.

According to the company's filing, Zuckerberg's father, a New York dentist, was awarded 2 million shares of stock "in satisfaction of funds provided for his initial working capital."

Dustin Moskovitz, Zuckerberg's college roommate, a fellow Harvard dropout and company cofounder, holds 133.8 million shares.

During Facebook's early years, the company granted valuable options to about 250 employees. That club includes some of the largest stash purchases.

In 2007, the company stopped issuing options and switched to restricted stock units. Still, a large number of employees hired after 2007 have millions in dormant stakes.

Peter A. Gherardi, Facebook's chief financial officer, who was hired in 2009, has more than 7 million in shares.

Estranged partners

The list of notable shareholders also includes some people who may be considered estranged now at Facebook.

Tyler and Cameron Winklevoss, the Olympic-rowing pair, Harvard graduates and former business partners of Zuckerberg, own about 1.2 million shares as part of their settlement with the company and their former classmate, who they claim unethically stole their idea for Facebook.

The company's estranged cofounder, Eduardo Saverin, who provided some of the initial financing and later sued the company for ousting his stake, reappears to not an even larger settlement, worth 5 percent of the company.

Those stakes since sold a large blunt of his shares on the secondary market. He is not mentioned in the Facebook filing.

New York Times News Service

Zuckerberg mission: To make the world more connected

SAN FRANCISCO—It's not about the money, literally.

That's what billionaire Mark Zuckerberg says.

As investors scramble to get a piece of Facebook ahead of its initial public offering, Zuckerberg wants to paint a portrait of a company with goals far loftier than the money-makers on Wall Street—and certainly loftier than most stock brokerages.

"Facebook was not originally created to be a company," he writes in a letter to potential investors that was part of the Facebook's filing on Wednesday. "It was built to accomplish a social mission—to make the world more open and connected."

Zuckerberg goes on to compare his invention to the printing press and television. "Facebook aspires to build the services that give people the power to share and help them seize opportunities in most of our core institutions and initiatives."

And there is this: "We don't build services to make money; we make money to build better services."

Zuckerberg's lengthy letter also tries to help investors understand the philosophy of the company programmers—the Hacker Way as he puts it.

"Hackers" is the word the new services over the long term by quickly releasing and learning from smaller iterations rather than trying to get everything right all at once," he wrote, attempting with a slogan that he said was painted on Facebook's walls: "Done is better than perfect."

This approach explains both Facebook's swift, still-unfinished success at drawing users and the flaws—anger that it unintentionally has that of them.

To a user, it can often seem as though Facebook takes a leap of 20 steps ahead, often users and then pulls 10 or 15 steps back.

This often seems close to that of Google and dramatically optimistic in that of Facebook, where performs has been paramount, and a product could not go to market until it met the exacting standards of its late founder and chief executive, Steven P. Jobs.

But the approach is spreading across Silicon Valley from Apple, surprised people when it introduced the wide-powered Siri feature on the iPhone 4S in a test version, complete with flaws.

"We have a saying: 'Move fast and break things,'" Zuckerberg letter continued. "The idea is that if you never break anything, you're probably not moving fast enough."

The four-page letter laid out what Zuckerberg called "the five core values" of the company, emphasizing ambition, openness and risk-taking.

"We have another saying: 'The riskiest thing is to take no risks.'" *New York Times News Service*

Facebook embarks on biggest Internet IPO ever

From page A1

IPO that could value the company at as high as $75 billion to $100 billion.

At that lofty valuation, Facebook would be much bigger than many longer-established American companies, including Abbott Laboratories, Caterpillar, Kraft Foods, Goldman Sachs and Ford Motor.

"Facebook's IPO marks another stage of the Internet's evolution," said Charlene Li, founder of the Altimeter Group, a technology consulting firm. "It's so valuable, because it's not just about connections, it's about our connections."

2.7-fold revenues in 2011

The filing sheds some light on how the company's tools use our data to create the richest mix a formidable money machine.

The company, which makes the bulk of its money from advertising and the sale of virtual goods, recorded revenue of $3.7 billion last year, an 88-percent increase from the prior year.

During that period, Facebook posted a profit of $1 billion—still a fraction of the size of its rival Google, which recorded revenue of $37.9 billion last year.

But many analysts believe Facebook's fortunes will rapidly multiply as advertisers direct more and more capital to the Web's social lives.

Facebook, unlike any other firm, has connected dollars to the actual ebb of the Web. More than a portal, the company's value lies in its dynamic network of social connections and the enormous amount of information shared by its users.

In many ways, Facebook is a data processor, archiving and analyzing every shred of information, including its users' interests, locations and every article and link that they "like."

The collection of data is a potential gold mine for advertisers, who are keen to better understand and target consumers.

"Facebook changed the way entrepreneurs thought about platforms and sharing," said Shervin Pishevar, a Menlo Ventures partner who built games on Facebook as the former chief of the social-gaming network.

An economy into itself

Indeed, the social network has become something like an economy into itself, fostering businesses like the music service Spotify. The game maker Zynga, which went public last year, generates more than 90 percent of its sales from Facebook users.

"Facebook has become the biggest distribution platform on the Web," said Daniel Ek, the founder of Spotify, a service that accepts only Facebook users.

"We turned that users who connected our service to Facebook were three times more likely to become a paying user," Ek added.

But for all the promise of Facebook, the company is still trying to figure out how to generate big enough and long-term revenue while keeping its ecosystem intact.

For all its billions, Facebook makes a small turn on a per-user basis. Last year, it made a little more than $5 per user.

The Wall Street firms underwriting the IPO are Morgan Stanley, JPMorgan Chase, Goldman Sachs, Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Barclays Capital and Allen & Company.

Facebook has come a long way from its scrappy start-up days.

Zuckerberg

Zuckerberg, a freckle-faced computer prodigy from Dobbs Ferry, New York, and his roommates, then known as Thefacebook, in his Harvard dorm room in February of 2004.

He rolled out the site carefully, first opening it up to other Ivy League schools to keep the community limited.

Some of Mr. Zuckerberg's classmates were enable to old high school friends, sending them to join the site. By the end of 2004, the site reached one million users.

"There's this kind of stuff I do—small little projects, and eventually they all fit together," Zuckerberg told The Harvard Crimson.

Like Google, Facebook was not the first to its category. There ago like Six Degrees.com, Myspace, LinkedIn, Friendster and others predated the service.

But Facebook quickly eclipsed the competition by distilling down on the usefulness of sharing.

In 2006, Facebook made it easier for users to keep tabs on their connections by introducing news feeds.

These data streams made sharing automatic, broadcasting changes in relationships, updates and announcements from friends to read more.

Fit Platform

Over new laws, Zuckerberg talked out the Facebook Platform, which allowed outside developers to build software that organized the webs that separated the service from the rest of the Web by allowing third parties to develop applications on the site.

The policy of openness and Facebook's position as so-called "frictionless sharing" have made it nearly impossible to escape its long shadow online.

Over the last four years, its user base has grown to 845 million from roughly 60 million. On average, users spend more than 9.7 billion minutes a day on the site, according to the filing.

Zuckerberg has been made wealthy by Facebook, and an IPO would make him wealthier. Fifteen billionaires was valued at $20 billion, before magazine estimated Zuckerberg's wealth at $6.9 billion. At a market value of $100 billion for Facebook, Zuckerberg's 28.4 percent stake would be worth $28.4 billion.

But his ambitions don't seem solely to be about money. Unlike many billionaires, Zuckerberg says he wants to "make the world a more open place," according to his Facebook profile.

More features

In recent months, his team has rolled out more features to woo! that end, like Timeline, which makes it easy to scroll through a user's entire history, and new partnerships with companies like Spotify.

The company is also said to be designing its own mobile phone, which will give Facebook an even larger footprint in its users' digital lives. *New York Times News Service*

P-Noy expects RH passage, 12 other bills next year

From page A1

by Abigail Valte,

It was his reply to a question on whether he would rally his allies in Congress, especially those not directly involved in the impeachment trial, to hustle down to their legislative work.

Daily roll calls

As though in quick response, House Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales said that starting next week, there would be daily roll calls in the chamber to ensure sufficient attendance at the House's work sessions.

Among the priority measures that the Aquino administration submitted to Congress in August 2011 is the proposed Responsible Parenthood, Reproductive Health and Population and Development Bill.

Legislation warned in a statement issued on Wednesday that "the Aquino administration's inordinate focus" on Corona's impeachment trial had adversely affected the economy and against legislative work.

The former House minority floor leader said that since Corona's impeachment trial started on Jan. 16, attendance in the House "diminished to less than the requisite quorum."

He also noted the "sparse attendance" in committee hearings.

"The collateral damage of the impeachment proceedings on governance and legislation is becoming inevitable," Lagman said.

He added: "While the national growth plunged to 3.7 percent last year, which is much slower than the 7.6 percent gross domestic product registered in 2010, and the number of hungry Filipinos estimated to 4.3 million from 4.1 million last September, the Aquino administration has

TEXT: see the Aquino administration's priority measures.

- Responsible Parenthood, Reproductive Health and Population and Development Bill
- Amendments to the Human Security Act (no further use Law)
- Amendments to the People's Television Network Law
- Amendments to the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration Law
- Restructuring of the excise tax on alcohol and tobacco products
- Provisions for the definition of the specific Executive limits of the public domain
- Grant of transfer provisions for easements
- Protection of individual personal data in information and communications systems in the public and private sectors
- Reorganization of the Philippine Statistical system
- Imposition of stiffer penalties for stealing or interfering with government real estate, industrial and preparedness equipment, accessories and other facility items
- Provisions for additional benefits and protection to house help
- Expansion of the coverage of the seamen and seafaring scholarship program
- Amendments to the Twenty-Percent Balanced Housing Law

cushioned its time and resources to an agenda of curbing the Chief Justice.

"The implementation of an unreal policies to address poverty and hunger may be stalled and the budget of the Department of Social Welfare and Development may fall at the end side as all gains of the Aquino administration may be annulled at the Chief Justice's hand.

"Meanwhile, major legislation stagnates as congressional proceedings and senator-judges have assumed new roles outside of their traditionally mandated legislative functions."

Taxi brigade

On the phone yesterday with the Senator, Gonzales said he had instructed officials to remind colleagues that attendance would be taken when the House convenes again on Monday.

"I've already instructed our officers to [organize] a new brigade, starting Monday, there will be a roll call," he said.

Asked if a roll call would also be conducted before the start of sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday, Gonzales said that was the plan.

The House occasionally takes attendance only on the first day of the week. In subsequent sessions, the plenary just takes up where it left off in the previous day.

Empty seats

Gonzales said attendance disturbed last week because some lawmakers insisted that there would be no roll call and thus no longer showed up at the session hall.

Others arrived at the Batasang Pambansa compound but chose to stay in their offices, hence the empty seats in the session session hall.

He said attendance was not usually a problem in the 15th Congress.

Gonzales issued the assurance that the House would devote time to priority legislation, and said the proposed whistle-blower's protection act and antiterror financing bill might be approved next week.

The anti-terrorism committee is also scheduled next week to take up 33 priority measures that have been approved by other committees but have funding requirements, he said, adding that they would be read on the floor by Wednesday.

Contentious bills

Gonzales, however, pointed out that certain bills were moving slowly because of their "controversial" nature, and not because of any disinterest from Corona's impeachment trial.

He cited the reproductive health bill, which has generated heated debates in and out of Congress. "Even without the impeachment [trial], that is controversial," he said.

The bill pioneering six items but also lowers hampered by policy differences at the committee level, but Gonzales said it was expected to move soon with a new chair of the ways and means committee taking over.

The Freedom of Information bill is also expected to move soon after Malacañang has submitted its version of it, he added.

ROGUES GALLERY This undated wanted poster released early by the Philippine military and the US Embassy shows terrorist leaders wanted by authorities for murders, extortion and kidnappings with corresponding rewards for their capture. On Thursday the military announced it killed three most-wanted leaders of the al-Qaida-linked terrorist group Abu Sayyaf and Jemaah Islamiyah in a US-backed air strike on a remote area in Sulu province. Two of those killed were Abu Sayyaf leader Umbra Jumalil, top row second from right, and Malaysian Zulkifli bin Hir, middle row left.

3 top terror leaders killed

From page A1

intelligence people and locals in the area," he said.

One of those killed was Malaysian Zulkifli bin Hir, also known as "Marwan" and a top leader of the al-Qaida-linked Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) regional terror network. He carried a $5-million bounty on his head.

Also killed was Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) commander Umbra Jumalil, known as "Dan Mia," who had a bounty of P7.4 million put up by the Philippine government, on top of a $1-million reward offered by the US Department of State.

The slain Singaporean was identified by the military as Mahmuda Ali, alias "Mazuriya Sirajuh," of JI, who had a bounty of $50,000.

'Took only seconds'

The operation was "based on a thorough, well-executed plans and months of unobtrusive monitoring and surveillance of JI and ASG personalities," Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesperson Col. Arnulfo Marcelo Burgos Jr. said in a briefing at Camp Aguinaldo.

"The air strikes by two OV-10 Bronco took only seconds," he said, adding the targets had no chance to retaliate. At the time, intelligence experts put the number of terrorists on the ground at 30, he said.

The rest of the group escaped and no one was captured after the attack, the military said.

The terrorists were found in a thickly-vegetated area under the cover of nighttime.

"As per the description of the operation officer, there were constant rains, the area was thick and there were trees. They were probably sleeping," Burgos said.

All-out justice

"The troops on the ground confirmed the deaths of 15 ASG and Jemaah," Burgos said. He said no civilians were killed in the attack.

He told the AFP information came from "civilian informers who cooperated with us in our all-out justice campaign."

Asked if the United States was involved, he said: "The US has been providing us assistance in terms of intelligence and in terms of technology. What was important was the intelligence provided to us in this case."

Burgos said intelligence reports had indicated 60 JI personnel have entered the Philippines late December but the military was still checking how many remained.

Identities confirmed

During yesterday's attack, the Philippine Air Force dropped four bombs weighing 227 kilograms each from two bomber planes, said Maj. Gen. Jose Villarete, head of the 1st Air Division based in Zamboanga City.

"This is a terrific blow, a big blow, against the Abu Sayyaf and Jemaah Islamiyah," Burgos said.

Asked if there was a need for DNA tests, Burgos said the Philippine National Police had "confirmed" the identities of the three terrorist personalities. The names of the 11 others were not yet available, he said.

The three were "positively identified by police and our intelligence informants at the site," Burgos told The Associated Press.

'Precise operation'

In October last year, the military also launched a bomb run in Sulu on areas in Indanan town to Indanan targeting the same group.

Maj. Gen. Noel Coloma, chief of the Western Mindanao Command, said the attack, named Operation Samurai, was a "precise operation."

"No one was hurt or killed from our side and there was no collateral damage to civilian communities," Coloma said.

The JI, which operates in Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand, is believed to have links to the international al-Qaida terror network.

Hunted for years

Marwan, a US-United Kingdom, was wanted for his alleged role in several terror attacks. He was also said to have trained new guerrillas here in Philippines.

Jumalil, called Dan Mia for serving as a medic during the Abu Sayyaf's early years, was wanted for involvement in numerous kidnappings, including the 2009 abduction of International Committee of the Red Cross personnel in Sulu and in the May 2001 kidnapping of Filipinos and Americans in the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan province.

American counterterrorism troops have helped the ill-equipped Filipino troops track Marwan for years using satellite and drone surveillance. About 600 US Special Forces troops have been deployed in Mindanao since 2002, providing a crucial support for the Philippines' counterterrorism operations.

Pending confirmation by DNA testing, Marwan's death may represent the most important successful operation against JI since the January 2011 arrest of Indonesian suspect Umar Patek in Pakistan's garrison town of Abbottabad, where Osama bin Laden was killed in a US commando attack four months later.

Bomb-making skills

Patek and Marwan collaborated with Abu Sayyaf in training guerrillas in bomb-making skills, making bombing locally and abroad and planning attacks, including against American troops in the southern Philippines.

Patek is believed to have traveled back to Indonesia then onward to Pakistan, leaving Marwan in take charge in the southern Philippines, military officials say.

"Marwan's attack also represents a huge blow to the Abu Sayyaf's ability to recover from years of battle setbacks through fund-raising and training of new guerrillas.

The group is behind numerous seaside kidnappings, bomb attacks and beheadings that have terrorized the Philippines for more than two decades.

US-backed offensives

US-backed offensives have been credited for the capture and killing of hundreds of Abu Sayyaf fighters and most top leaders since the 1990s. Jumalil had eluded troops in numerous offensives and emerged as a key figure in the radical movement.

The military estimates the Abu Sayyaf strength at about 400. They are still considered a key threat to regional security.

They are believed to be still holding a number of foreign and local captives, including Filipino and Indonesian sailors who were kidnapped before Christmas, as well as a Malaysian, a Japanese and an Indian. PCIJ & report from AP and Inquirer Research

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Empty seats, bored audience mark Day 11

By Michael Lim Ubac

EMPTY SEATS and a sleepy audience marked the 11th day of Chief Justice Renato Corona's impeachment trial.

Former Solicitor General Estelito Mendoza's testimony, which was supposed to have been religiously attending the trial since it started on Jan. 16, ensocially in the gallery reserved for female guests.

Both visibly absent in the VIP gallery yesterday were Iloilo Representative Niel Tupas Jr. and Corona in the Senate, and other high-profile personalities who attended the opening of the trial.

Former President Joseph Estrada turned up at the Senate for the second day, but did not stay for the whole trial. His wife, former Sen. Luisa Ejercito, was in the VIP gallery on the first day.

Boredom was obvious on the face of a handful of prosecutors and leaders of the House of Representatives assured federal Macoda and Tetad.

The HD gallery is in the rear portion of the hall, which serves as a backdrop for the senators' head in cases on TV.

Half-awake

Yesterday, the gallery was also bedeviled by the half-awake audience composed of concerned citizens, members of the senators' staffs and reporters.

An unidentified female President Jose Jesus Peter Enrile urged the prosecutors to speed up the authentication of their evidence the subpoenaed witnesses, repeatedly telling them to "hurry, hurry, hurry, please."

The senator-judges pleaded with both the defense and the prosecution to end the repetitive debates over rules and procedures by submitting three representative memoranda instead of engaging in verbal warfare on the floor.

Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III said that at the pace the trial was being conducted, he expected it to last beyond the Lenten season in April. "That's possible," he said in an interview.

"But the senators [took it to the heart. If we don't finish by March 31, we will resume on May 17," he said, referring to Congress' midterm break.

Sen. Loren Legarda refused Sotto's speculations.

"We have a long way to go because of the many articles and the included witnesses. Compared to the first two weeks, it's becoming more efficient ... But still, we would want a more efficient process," she said.

Legarda said the prosecution should be more "direct to the point."

"The issues in the eight articles of impeachment are very clear. We want the evidence and testimony to support the articles of impeachment so that we can make a decision for or against the case," she said.

Senators also a problem

Interviewed during a break in the trial, Miranda blamed the slow pace on both the defense and the prosecution as a problem.

He also opined that the prosecution had "not been very effective," and that the defense had "futile lawyers."

Miranda also said the behavior of many of the senator-judges was likewise a problem. "Part of the delay is the [senators' insistence] on asking questions even if the Senate President already said, 'Let's have the prosecution and the defense first.' No, they're not being followed."

He noted that if eight senators would attend at one time, with each taking "usually one long answer of three to five minutes," almost an hour of the time would be taken up by short questions.

Noting the absence of other jurors at the HD gallery, Miranda said: "I cannot answer for them. The only reason I'm here is because I'm a reporter."

He said he still sits down pats. the current trial will appeals to the former senator.

"I'm writing a book [on it, but] I assured one day when I retired as publisher in Tagaytay [in Batangas]," he said.

He seemed to be serious. "I should not say that. I'm assured [by] my people—both inside and outside the Senate—impeachment court—were losing interest in the televised proceedings.

"That looks like it. From the interviewers] are [getting impatient]," he said.

Asked to elaborate, he said "very ordinary details" were being discussed inside the trial. He said this strategy "doesn't live up the enthusiasm of the people."

Recalling Estrada's impeachment trial, Tetad said: "The charge sheet, for example, was 'parking.' That's illegal money ... from gambling, every serious charge."

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"That looks like it. From the

CJ underdeclared ₱3.4M Burgundy condo, court told

By TJ Burgonio

CHIEF Justice Renato Corona underdeclared a ₱3.4-million Burgundy Plaza unit in Quezon City and failed to declare a parking slot valued at ₱450,000 in his statements of assets, liabilities and networth (SALN), the prosecution yesterday told the Senate impeachment court.

Sen. Jinggoy Estrada elicited these details from private prosecutor Cesar Mancao III after nearly two hours of testimony by Gregg Gregorio, Burgundy Plaza Realty Corp. vice president, on the purchase of the unit and the parking slot by Corona and his wife Cristina.

"What one hour and 45 minutes of direct testimony [do] you have in mind, what are you trying to prove here? Are you trying to prove that the Chief Justice failed to disclose this particular property in his SALN?" Estrada asked after Mancao, Gregorio and defense counsel Tranquilino Ortigoza.

Seizing the opportunity, Estrada told the court that Corona declared ₱921,000 as the price of the unit and the parking slot in his 2003 SALN.

The Corona couple bought Unit 23-E of Burgundy in 1997 separate from the parking slot. The unit and the parking slot had different titles, Estrada said.

"It was stated here (2003 SALN), but I doubt very much the fair market value. I think the Chief Justice disclosed the particular property in the SALN, but I don't want to make accusations here. I'm only trying to [say] he undervalued the price, am I correct?" Estrada asked Justice.

Justice said: "Yes, it was undervalued, only pertaining to condominium unit 23-E. There were some [declarations as to the separate properties, which is the parking slot."

The private prosecutor said the Constitution, in relation to Republic Act No. 6713, requires public officers to disclose their SALNs.

"I [can't emphasize on the net worth because one can't make a declaration of a net worth unless one makes a statement of taxes and liabilities. In this case, the conveyance agreement [is] only between the contract price was ₱3,250,000 and that there was a downpayment made," he said.

"The rule done in 1997 and as confirmed by the Chief Justice in his SALN in 2003, he indicated that he bought the unit in 1997. Therefore, it's incumbent on the Chief Justice to indicate as part of the assets the total contract price of these properties, but he has to subtract his remaining balance unless the economic liabilities are to be net worth because much money came out of his pocket will be addressed," he added.

Senate Jinggoy acknowledged that there was no "hard and fast rule" on the inclusion of one's acquisition of a parking slot in one's SALN.

More opinions

Commenting on Justice's statements, Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, however, said there were more "opinions."

Until that time, Gregorio merely confirmed that he brought documents pertaining to the Coronas' acquisition of the unit and parking slot, including the couple's reservation agreement with Burgundy Plaza, buyers' ledger, contract to sell, deed of absolute sale, and receipts of installment payments from Coronas and his son Francis.

Asked on the last visit that Gregorio's testimony would prove that Corona failed to declare his acquisition of the unit to his SALNs from 1997 to 2002, but truthfully declared this in his SALNs from 2003 to 2008. The prosecution rested only in 2009, showed that Corona failed to declare his acquisition of the parking slot in his SALNs from 1997 to 2010, according to the private prosecutor.

Under cross-examination by the chief defense counsel, Senator Cayetano, Gregorio said he appeared before the court to bring the subpoenaed documents and not to attempt to Corona's SALNs.

Gregorio said that he and the Coronas never talked about Corona's SALN.

"We didn't talk about the SALN," Gregorio said when asked by Cayetano if the prosecution's claim that he appeared in the trial to testify on the alleged unreported SALNs. However, he said that being questioned on the matter had crossed his mind.

Installment payments

Gregorio submitted to the Senate-tribunal Unit 23-E Burgundy Plaza in Scout Rallos, Quezon City, penthouse. Angeles Jonalles, who was subpoenaed by the court but repeatedly took flight.

The company issued authorized Gregorio to bring the documents subpoenaed and to testify on them.

In his testimony, Gregorio presented documents showing that Corona made installment payments for the unit and the parking slot, and confirmed their authenticity.

Gregorio said he saw for the first time the documents years ago, for the second time when Burgundy received the subpoena for Senate and for the third time yesterday during the trial.

The presentation and authentication of the documents took so long that the crowd started to scream out of the session hall. At one point, some of the senators were seen dozing a bought.

Toward the end, Sen. John Arroyo continued private prosecutors against making arguments, pointing out that their job was limited to establishing an enumeration.

Dishonesty enough to convict, says prosecution

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE PROSECUTION panel yesterday said Chief Justice Renato Corona's purported dishonesty in filing his statements of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALNs) would be enough to convict him of betrayal of public trust.

Aurora Rep. Juan Edgardo Angara, a deputy spokesperson of the panel, said the framers of the Constitution referred to betrayal of public trust as "one of the gravest offenses of misbehavior by a public official."

"The idea of public trust is connected with the oath of office of the public official, and if he violates the oath of office, then he has betrayed that trust," he said in a press briefing.

Angara also elaborated on the argument raised by the lead public prosecutor, Rabe Rep. Niel Tupas Jr., before the Senate impeachment court—that while Corona's lying under oath might not be considered a high crime, it fell under the other impeachable offenses.

During the trial, Tupas put on record that the charge against the Chief Justice was the committed crimes in his SALNs, which would fall, not under bribery, but under betrayal of public trust and culpable violation of the Constitution.

Quezon Rep. Lito Belardo, another deputy spokesperson of the prosecution, said the Supreme Court did not consider dishonesty a petty crime when it upheld the conviction of then officer

Augusto Alo eliminated on the impeachment raised by the lead public prosecutor, Rabe Rep. Niel Tupas Jr., before the Senate impeachment court—that while Corona's lying under oath might not be considered a high crime, it fell under the other impeachable offenses.

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No evidence on 45 properties of Corona

From page A1

Salvador who said it was "a happy day" for the defense "because we have senators who are able to cite beyond political affiliation."

"We hope this will continue in the succeeding days," he told reporters.

Echarda de los Angeles, also of the defense, pointed out that Corona only owned five properties but "and three of [on paper] ings."

"We also thanked the fact that the prosecution panel, led [but Corona had 45 properties. We found out that there was double counting and that some titles were already canceled," De los Angeles said. "That's why we don't understand why the succeeded [about the] 45 properties."

De los Angeles said the prosecution should have presented an official of the Land Registration Authority (LRA) if they wanted to prove that Corona has indeed the owner of the properties listed.

Trial outside Inner

The prosecution got a briefing of sorts from the senator-judges for supposedly continuing to argue their case and presenting evidence against the Chief Justice's wife in the impeachment court.

Senators Jinggoy Estrada and Francis Escudero put Tupas on the spot for announcing before the opening of the trial the purported 45 properties owned by Corona, which he later withdrew.

Sen. Gregorio Honasan said both the defense and the prosecution should be "neutral" by remaining calm that they are discuss the merits of the case before the public and the media.

Tupas said, "We just wanted the senators to proceeding from this the trial inside the court," he said.

Under questioning by Escudero, Tupas denied that the list of Corona's alleged 45 properties was divulged by the prosecution. He said the disclosure was made in a letter from the LRA, a copy of which was attached to the prosecution's request for subpoena submitted on Jan. 12.

Gotcha

"So far, we have presented 25 properties (including parking lots). We might present more, but we are not bound by [those] 45 properties from the LRA," Tupas told the court.

When the trial resumed after a 15-minute break, Estrada confronted Tupas on his denial that the prosecution panel had relied solely on the release of the LRA information.

During the break, Estrada said he saw TV footage of Tupas and his fellow prosecutors, including their spokesperson, "showing to the media the list of [the] 45 properties."

"So it's not true that the list released to the media did not come from him because he even [had] a picture taking [with the list]. It was serious TV," Estrada said in Filipino.

"The only people are putting the members of the impeachment court on the spot. We [and the public] are being made to believe that the Chief Justice owns 45 properties. But here is the court, it seems another picture are pointing only 24 properties including parking lots, under his name. The others are under the names of his children," he said.

'I don't know him'

Estrada emphasized that he was not "defending" Corona.

"I don't have him. In fact, he [must] one of those who encouraged to oust my father [former President Joseph Estrada] from office. What I'm only saying is that our concern is that he is given trial. Let us not lie," he said.

In an appeal apparently directed to the prosecutors, Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, the presiding officer, said they should "respect the rights of the accused."

Tupas admitted to objecting only a few times to the questions by Corona's spokesman and to the findings at a press conference on Jan. 15 days before the impeachment court resumed both camps quarrel during the Senate proceedings.

The Senate Subcommittee on Impeachment Rules ruled that senator-judges and counsels "shall refrain from making any comments and disclosures to public proceedings to the media of a pending impeachment trial."

Pending trial in Manila, Tupas said: "With respect to the [45] properties, I never released [them]. There's no picture with the media. He [sees] conference. It was an attachment with the request for subpoena. I never released [them] to the media. Ano, [ay]."

Enrile reminded the lawyers-politicians involved in the trial that they were "still agents of the court."

"We must behave in accordance with the ethics of our profession and I would like to appeal to everybody, both sides, to observe the proper rules of conduct that is required of us as lawyers of this country. Is everybody?" he said.

Is offense impeachable?

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. asked the prosecution to offer evidence "that has reached the level of an impeachable offense" after it was established that a mere conviction of Corona's statements of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALNs) could not serve him from removal and administrative sanctions.

Lawyers issued the challenge after a House prosecutor, Rep. Eddie Bichara, insisted that Corona's failure to "accurately" declare in the required SALNs "is a serious offense amounted to "the highest form of betrayal of public trust."

But a check made by Sen. Ralph Recto with the Civil Service Commission's rules and regulations showed that if an official is found by him to have lied in a SALN made an erroneous entry, he "shall not be sanctioned" if he made a correction "in good faith."

"I am happy the discussion arose," Arroyo said, citing other provisions in the commission's rules on improper betting. Garcia, regardless of deeds of Marikina City.

Garcia testified on the seven parcels of land that Corona and his wife allegedly owned in Marikina.

Garcia also revealed that validations that "not every offense [or] omission is an impeachable offense."

"The responsibility of the prosecution is to present evidence that would amount to an impeachable offense, and the defense must cite defense is. Otherwise, if the evidence presented here is just any kind of evidence, I don't think that is fair to the Senate, because our Collectively is an impeachable offense," he said.

Arroyo pointed out that 60 President Bill Clinton was impeached by the US House of Representatives, which eleven acquitted by the Senate.

Of a higher law

"When the Senate found [the complaint], it said it did not amount to an impeachable offense," he recalled.

Turning to the House prosecutors, Arroyo said: "Give proof that has reached the level of an impeachable offense. So I keep repeating, it's not just [any] offense. It must be of a higher law because we are answering a Chief Justice.

"Give us something to hang on us. Otherwise we would go astray in the course of the proceedings," he said.

Enrile—a school-mate to many media, telling the prosecutors: "You cannot be inconsistent or have a double standard ... We might be trading into clearing crimes that may not be impeachable.

"Remember that the Chief Justice was caught [swindling] evidence. That is a violation of law but is that the nature of impeachment? Or if he gives P600 to someone in the Land Transportation Office [...], is that in the nature of impeachment? Or finally rules are not under gravity and level of crimes that would be considered impeachable."

Barangay's insistence that Corona committed the "highest form" of betrayal of public trust came after a discussion on which violations of the properties should be included in his SALNs.

"The charge [under Article 2] is a betrayal of trust by public [...] What I should [Corona] have specifically reported, and what intended? The total value? The assessed value? Or that which appears in the deed of sale?" Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano said.

Is it high crime?

Barangay noted that Corona's SALNs from 2002 to 2008 "left some blanks insofar as the acquisitions [are] concerned."

Under the Constitution, the Chief Justice is required to file his SALNs. Also, when the highest official in the judiciary does not declare accurately ... then we think that would be the highest form of betrayal of public trust," Bin Laguesma said.

Tupas said the Senate Court, if there has been commission or acts [which] are worthy [...] of the properties ... the filer would be liable for perjury since his statements are made under oath and there is a certification at the end of the statements, "all of the statements contained are true and correct," he said.

"If it's a crime, is it a high crime?" Estrada asked.

"Yes, your honor," Barangay said.

28th Mango Tee: Villareal-Ilagan sets early pace

LUSUNG Villareal and Antonio Ilagan crowd the top of the leaderboard with a combined 36 points after the first round Wednesday of the 28th edition of the Mango Tee golf tournament at Alabang Country Club.

Villareal, a 16-handicapper, carded 21 points while Ilagan, an 18-handicapper, fired 15 to show up the big field. They stood six points clear of Rolly Magsino and Renato Mercado who tallied 30—9 for 30 points.

Paul Salvador and Vince Laurel posted the low gross two by one point.

Editor Teddyrik S. Melendres
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa

SPORTS

CMS Elite of NLEX stretches for a shot off Freego Jeune' Eric Cammon in yesterday's Game 1 of the D-League title series. ALEXIS MACUJA

NLEX batters Freego, zeroes in on Cup title

By Jasmine N. Payo

NLEX virtually thwarted on a hard-luck Freego Arana reasserting, rearing to a 75-53 victory at the Ynares Sports Center to move within a win of a second straight PBA D-League championship.

Jan Sangalang spurred a dominant start as the Road Warriors easily took the series opener of the Aspirants Cup against the Jeune Makers, who hardly showed the form that rewarded them with the first title slot at the expense of the highly-regarded Cebuana Gasilleo in the semifinals.

"They (Jeune Makers) were just missing their shots, even their free shots," said NLEX coach Boyet Fernandez. "Probably they're off because of their long break."

Sangalang got his way inside the paint routines or finish with a game-high 20 points, eight rebounds and a couple of blocks.

The Road Warriors will try to wrap it up in Game 2 of the best-of-three title series on Tuesday at the FILOIL Flying V Arena in San Juan.

Freego fired many blanks and ended up with a shooting clip of 27.9 percent. They were also outrebounded, 39-33.

JR Garcia finished with 13 points and dished out five assists, and Carlos Lastimo and Cliff Hodge also had eight points each for NLEX. Calvin Abueva also came off the bench to grab 13 rebounds to go with seven points.

The Road Warriors struck hard in the second quarter, holding the Jeune Makers scoreless in the last seven minutes of the first half, and running away with a 14-0 blitz for a 40-23 lead at the break.

Another 14-4 surge at the start of the third period—with Sangalang and Garcia combining for 12—gave the Road Warriors their biggest advantage, at 20 points, 54-34.

Lester Alvarez shot 12 points for the Jeune Makers, who only had five points and registered a horrendous 11.8 shooting percentage from the field in the second period.

SEE VICTORY, PAGE 2 Game 2 on Sat

Pucay starts strong with 4-under 68 in Myanmar Open

MANDALAY—Rikki Pucay fired a solid 4-under-par 68 Thursday to be tied for third off the opening-round pace in the Landmark Myanmar Open presented by Mr Biggs at the Royal Mingalardon Golf and Country Club.

The 41-year-old Pucay carded 4 birdies and a bogey to share third with Hiyama Yoshinobu of Japan and Kim Kyung-tae of South Korea.

Another Filipino, Angelo Que, is in the group trailing the leaders by one stroke after a 69.

Pucay, who is playing in the Myanmar Open for the first time, said he was pleased with his performance.

"I'm happy with my game today. I hit the ball well and I made a lot of putts," he said.

Pucay is also looking forward to playing in the opening leg of this year's Tour.

Angelo Que and Jay Bayron shot identical 70s, Frankie Minoza had a 71 and Jared Wadas matched par 72. A 19-year-old amateur, Miguel Tabuena, is tied at 74 with Filipino pro Miguel Edwin Arteaga of Mendiola Golf Club.

Ten of the 20 United States and Australian Scott Hend and Mark Brown shared the lead with 66.

Arnie Ilao Wiers

Bucks slay another giant, cool Heat; Sixers triumph

MILWAUKEE—These Bucks keep digging their bones into the league favorites.

Milwaukee brought down another powerhouse, using a strong second half in a 105-97 victory over the Miami Heat in the lofty Midwestern altitude.

The Bucks laid to waste a 40-point effort by Heat star LeBron James and overcame a 17-point first half deficit by exploding in the final two quarters for their third straight win, a streak that also includes a triumph over the LA Lakers.

The Bucks (19-12) also defeated the Heat on Jan. 20 to what had been Miami's only loss in nine games going into Wednesday's contest.

This time, Milwaukee ate into Miami's advantage with a 13-2 run to start the third quarter before kicking into a higher gear at the start of the fourth by outscoring the visitors 22-3 en route to a 98-82 lead in the blink of an eye.

The feat could get no closer than nine in the fourth before a three-pointer at the buzzer settled the final score.

Dwyane Wade finished with 23 points but the Heat lacked teamwork as the pressure mounted on the leader.

Brandon Jennings sparked Milwaukee with 31 points, including seven three-pointers, while Drew Gooden added 17 and nine rebounds.

James poured in 24 first-quarter points to make Miami (34-6) a 66-33 lead at the first interval before the Bucks headed themselves back into the contest to seal the Heat's five-game winning streak.

"It's the first half it felt like LeBron was going to go for 60. We just played good defense as a team and stayed aggressive," Jennings said.

In Philadelphia, Andre Iguodala helped the 76ers stamp themselves as a rising threat in the NBA Eastern Conference, scoring 19 points and grabbing nine rebounds in a 99-82 win over the Chicago Bulls.

Iguodala outplayed Derrick Rose and ended a team's worth of highlight videos and stories into one.

OTHER RESULTS: Thunder 98, Hornets 91 (Jones 42, Durant 29, Perkins 20, Westbrook 20, Ogilvie 12, Aldrich 10, Collison 10); Raptors 118, Magic 102 (Bargnani 27, Lowry 24, Calderon 19, Davis 15, Johnson 15, Barbosa 13, Ross 11, Valanciunas 9, Weems 6, Amir Johnson 6); Spurs 105, Nuggets 102 (Duncan 23, Ginobili 20, Parker 19, Green 15, Blair 10, Mills 10, Diaw 8, Bonner 2, Splitter 0, Neal 0, Hill 0, Jackson 0, Anderson 0); Pacers 103, Pistons 97 (Hibbert 20, Granger 19, Hansbrough 18, George 16, Collison 11, Dunleavy 7, Foster 6, Price 4, Tyler 2, Mahinmi 0, Ford 0, Stuckey 0); Kings 104, Wizards 101 (Thomas 24, Cousins 20, Evans 15, Casspi 14, Landry 10, Salmons 8, Williams 6, Garcia 4, Hayward 0, Thornton 0, Fredette 0, Outlaw 0); Hawks 104, Pelicans 97 (Horford 20, Teague 19, Johnson 16, Williams 15, Smith 10, Pachulia 9, Carroll 7, Crawford 4, Gentry 4, Davis 0, Powell 0, Wright 0); Celtics 103, Bobcats 91 (Pierce 23, Garnett 20, Rondo 15, Bass 12, Green 11, Sullinger 8, Lee 6, Wilcox 5, Bradley 3, Stiemsma 0, Ray Allen 0, Jeffries 0); Nets 104, Cavaliers 97 (Williams 24, Johnson 20, Lopez 19, Humphries 15, Morris 10, Blatche 8, Farmar 4, Gee 4, Watson 0, Vujacic 0, Mozgov 0, Harris 0); Rockets 109, Warriors 103 (Lin 28, Scola 20, Parsons 19, Lee 15, Jeffries 11, Delfino 8, Patterson 4, Morrow 4, Brooks 0, Dragic 0, Hayes 0, Udrih 0, Douglas 0).

Pacquiao's next fight most likely vs Bradley

By Ray Gutierrez

TIMING on official announcement not yet, but recent developments point to Manny Pacquiao taking on unbeaten American Timothy Bradley in his next fight.

Bradley (the World Boxing Organization light welterweight champion) further boosted his stock for the megabuck bout with Pacquiao when Floyd Mayweather Jr. announced Wednesday (Thursday) that he'll be going after Miguel Cotto's World Boxing Association super welterweight (154 pounds) crown on May 5 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

In effect, Mayweather shut the door on a collision with pound-for-pound rival Pacquiao (supposed for the same date).

Cotto, on the other hand, dropped his bid to stage revenge on Pacquiao, who stopped him in the 12th round in 2009.

Having an inkling that Mayweather is once again ducking him, Pacquiao announced on a television interview Wednesday night that Bradley is likely to be his next opponent.

Like Pacquiao, Bradley is also being promoted by Bob Arum's Top Rank.

Two other candidates in the Pacquiao derby—Juan Manuel Marquez and Lamont Peterson—are being groomed for a July 14 fight at the Cowboys Stadium in Texas.

After being greeted by the Nevada State Athletic Commission a one-fight license, Mayweather resumed his Twitter campaign against Pacquiao.

"I'm fighting Miguel Cotto on May 5th because I think Bar Mex is starking me," wrote Mayweather, who spoke with Pacquiao over the phone last month and offered a guaranteed $40 million to the Sarangani representative, sans a share of the pay-per-view buys.

Pacquiao, on the other hand, wanted a 50-50 split on all revenues.

Arum made a counter-offer of $45 million up front for Mayweather.

Pacquiao adviser Michael Koncz, who conducted with Mayweather several times, told the LA Times that Mayweather rejected a 30-40 percent sharing, with the biggest check going to the winner.

PATRIOTS standout Andy Lorong draws a foul from Ban Ly of the Saigon Heat during their game Wednesday. ALBERT DEL ROSARIO

PH Patriots rip Saigon cagers

Slingers turn back Beermen

By Jasmine W. Payo

ONE Philippine squad wriggled out of a fight situation while another followed in the endgame in the Asean Basketball League on Wednesday night.

Segerio Anthony Johnson and Ibanion Müller combined for the 86-from Philippines' last 11 points at the Patriots hold off the rallying Saigon Heat for a 79-82 victory at the Trusco Sports Arena.

Over in Singapore, Gee Miguel's countback bid hit a snag as the host Slingers downed the Beermen, 71-63, at the Singapore Indoor Stadium.

"I don't know if we played with overconfidence or what, but I think they realized that they can't take Saigon for granted," said Patriots coach Glenn Capacio as the former champions improved to 3-3 for a share of second with the Philippines Malaysia Dragons.

"We weren't playing good in the first half, but the boys did well down the stretch."

The Beermen, torched by Singapore's reigning import Donald Dubay dropped to fourth at 2-2 along with the Bangkok Cobras.

Arne Mar Sajeeb led the game at 50, before Dubay added five of his game-high 23 points in the Slingers' 12-4 windup.

A former Rain or Shine super in the PBA, Dubay was 4-of-4 from three-point range in the first quarter as the Slingers opened an early 24-14 lead.

The Slingers, who claimed the solo lead at 4-1, spoiled the Beermen's bid for a third straight victory.

SAIGON (71)—Dubay 23, Arne 15, Sajeeb 6, Yeo 5, Ilano 2, Ragasa 0, Phan 0, Tran 0.

QUARTER: 14-8, 26-30, 47-49, 63-62

SINGAPORE (71)—Daby 23, Graham 16, Wong 9, Ubilla 12, Ee 5, Lester 2, Mahadevan 3, Lee 0, Thomas 0.

QUARTER: 14-13, 30-31, 48-48, 71-63

SUBSCRIBE: Today 70, Bowers 10, Jones 12, Evans 9, Dunn 10, Vonleh-Adair 10, Quinn 12, Agu 10, Collins 102, Barnes 12, Hart 10, Mc-Roberts 10, Sal Rivers 11, Edwards 9, Bell 10, Flores 10, Sun 10, Arends 10.

Final bell tolls for Dundee, trainer of legends

ANGELO Dundee, the brilliant cornerman who worked the corner for Muhammad Ali in his greatest fights and rallied Ungar Ray Leonard to victory in his biggest bout, died Wednesday in Tampa, Fla. He was 90.

The genial Dundee was best known for being in Ali's corner for almost his entire career, but those in boxing also knew him as an unbeatable for hosting such a figure of integrity to a sport that often lacked it.

He died with his family surrounding him, said son, Jimmy Dundee, but not before being able to unwind Ali's 70th birthday bash in Louisville, Ky., last month.

"It was the way he wanted to go," Jimmy Dundee said. "He did everything he wanted to do."

Hermann Bob Arum called Dundee a legend in the sport, someone who worked the corner for some of the greatest fights of the times.

"He was wonderful, he was the whole package," Arum said. "People rate the greatest cornermen of all time. No matter how bad things were, Angelo always put a positive spin on them. That's what Ali loved so much about him."

Arum credited Dundee with persuading Ali to continue in his third fight against Joe Frazier when Frazier was coming on strong in the "Thrilla in Manilla." Without Dundee, Arum said, Ali may not have had the strength to come back and stop Frazier after the 14th round in what became an iconic fight.

Dundee also worked the corner for Leonard, famously shouting "Watch me now!" as Ray's "Hitman" whom Leonard felled in his 1981 fight with Tommy Hearns—to fight he would rally to win by knockout.

A master motivator and clever corner man, Dundee was regarded as one of the sport's great ambassadors. He was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 1994 after a career that spanned six decades, training 15 world champions, including Leonard, George Foreman, Carmen Basilio and Jose Napoles.

But he will always be linked to Ali as one of the most successful fighter-trainer relationships in boxing history, helping Ali become the first to win the heavyweight title three times. AP

DUNDEE

All SEAG medalists form elite group; 10 'priorities' bared

By Jane Manaure
and Marc Anthony Reyes

ALL 382 individual medalists of the Philippine contingent that fell to a record low sixth place overall in the Southeast Asian Games in Indonesia last November were elevated by the Philippine Sports Commission yesterday to the elite group of athletes who will be trained exclusively for the 2013 SEAG in Myanmar.

At the same time, the PSC announced the list of 10 sports, led by boxing and taekwondo, that will be given priority funding under a directive from President Aquino to channel limited funding to events where the country is considered strong.

Completing the roster for which will avail of a total budget of P108 million were athletics, swimming, wushu, archery, wrestling, bowling, weightlifting and billiards.

PSC chair Ritter Garcia announced that the 29 individual winners plus the 65 silver and 88 bronze medalists will receive specialized training, foreign exposure and bags monthly allowances beginning next month until next year's SEA Games.

Garcia said the PSC will spend P43.6 million per month for the allowances of the 182 priority athletes or P92.6 million a year aside from the cost of billeting and accommodation, foreign training and exposure and activities.

"We're prepared to spend the amount for this program. If they don't win in the next SEA Games, they will be removed from the list," said Garcia. "If you don't get a medal (in Myanmar), your allowance will be discontinued unless your sport is a priority."

The other sports were ranked based on their medal potential with boxing and taekwondo to get P10 million each, athletics, swimming and wushu P12 million each, archery, wrestling, bowling and weightlifting P10 million each and billiards P8 million.

Obtaining an Olympic sport with a lot of medals at stake like athletics and swimming, failed to make it to the priority roster, but it was included as "a rebuilding sports" with a P10 million budget.

The top athletes in the last SEA Games were Iris Rafinda of Silliards, Frederick Ong of bowling, long jumper Marestella Torres, Gil Nevarez (tennis), Charly Suarez and Dennis Galicia, cyclists Jules Bonnet Mier and Alfie Catalan and wrestlers Janice Balabal and Margarita Dagoon, among others.

TORRES

SO

RAMOLA

Loyola Meralco XI trips Global

By Cedrell P. Tapao

LOYOLA Meralco overcame the absence of its top scorer and topped Global, 4-3, Wednesday night in the United Football League at the Rizal Memorial Stadium.

Skipper Jaime Bongbanuad struck twice, while Mark Mariscano and Ryoung Jeong each added a goal each for the Sparks, who scored their six-third with nine points on three wins against a loss debut.

The Sparks banked the absence of leading scorer Hal Bongbanuad, who served a one-game suspension for a red card in the 1-4 loss to Stallion.

Jaime booted in clinical goals in the 42nd and 44th minutes, but Loyola needed the heroics of goalkeeper Gabby Wallace to preserve the win, after Ici-el Habib and Angel Galindo scored late in the second half.

"It's a great response from our last game. The team showed great spirit," said James Younghusband.

PCC int'l 8-cock derby today

RAISED by a powerhouse one of local and international cockers, the "Pinoy International 8-Cock Derby" championship contest gets going today at the Pinoy City Cockpit.

Nine participants with three wins each will lead the field, including 910-spinos-American Jorge Torres of California, the 2009 World Gamefowl Cup and 2007 Candidato International derby champion.

Also with three wins apiece are Tony Lozada, Charlito Ang, Master Cris Alfonso, Rodolfo Pineda, Rebar Rosario, Ed Pangilinan, Mayor Elias Salgado and Ramon Manemanes, who will represent defending champion Manny Pacquiao in the event sponsored by Sagupan Complexion team.

Also eyeing the title are Nino Asuncion, Dovy Nuneza, Rep. Bimbit Antonio, Allan Sioco, Antonio Og Jr. Nuneza, Vice Mayor Tiamo, Sidney Enriquez, Boy Arcy and Vice Gov. Rafit Arcilla.

Meanwhile, the first elimination round of "Sagupan National 9-Cock Derby" is set on Feb. 13 also at PCC. For inquiries, call 8431786, 8160701 or 09175047907.

WINNING DRIVE The Speed Monsters Team of Roberto Yao and Lit Aguilar, 3rd and 4th from left, receive their trophy after making the Clock and Counter Race at the City Kart Racing course in Makati recently. Other winners were members of the Body Snips Team (2nd photo) and the Knuckle-Heads Team (3rd photo). Presenting the champions is race organizer Jean-Marc Fruhauf.

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DID YOU KNOW

In 2012, the Philippine National Police had over 19,700 vigilantly operations which resulted in the arrest of around 2,370 persons, according to its latest annual accomplishment report

Rafaelito Garduque, Inquirer Research

UP student in ICU following robbery

Victim attacked on campus; alert guards nab thief

By Nancy C. Carvajal

A STUDENT leader remains in critical condition at a hospital after she was attacked by a robber on the University of the Philippines (UP) campus in Diliman, Quezon City, on Wednesday afternoon.

"Please pray for my daughter, she has not survived a word since Wednesday evening. When I see her on the intensive care unit, I can feel that she is fighting [for her life]," Cecile Hira, the mother of Lordel Camille Arjadi Hira, told the Inquirer yesterday.

The 20-year-old fourth year political science student suffered head injuries after she was hit by a blunt object by a man who attacked her at the University Student Council (USC) office on the second floor of Vinzons Hall at around 3 p.m. on Wednesday.

Lordel is also the secretary general of Center for Nationalist Studies, a militant student organization.

According to Hira, another round of tests will be conducted to determine the extent of

UP STUDENT, A2

3 hurt in Manila fire blamed on cat, unattended candle

By Jeannette I. Andrade

A LIT CANDLE that had been toppled over by a frisky cat was believed to be the cause of the fire which left three people, including two children, injured and destroyed around 20 houses in Manila just before midnight on Wednesday.

Two-month-old baby Princess Jeanelle Norombaba and her 11-year-old uncle Nicanor Norombaba were asleep inside their house at 1281 Tambunting St. in Sta. Cruz when a lighted candle that had been placed on the windowsill fell over.

The flame leapt from the candle onto the bed sheet and quickly spread.

Fortunately, Nicanor woke up before the fire got bigger. He carried his niece out of the house and called for help.

The baby was treated at Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center for first degree burns on the left side of her face and arms while her uncle sustained burns on both shoulder.

Gilbert Galang, a resident in the area, tried to help put out the blaze but suffered injuries on the body and left arm as a result.

SFO2 Emmanuel Gaspar, arson investigator of the Manila Fire District, said that the blaze started at around 11:15 p.m. on Wednesday at the covered lane of the Norombaba' house.

Gaspar added that the fire quickly spread to at least 20 other neighboring houses, all made of light materials, in the area.

The blaze lasted for nearly an hour as firemen found it difficult to penetrate the affected area because of the narrow streets.

Adding to their woes was the explosion of an electrical transformers.

Residents pitched in to put out the fire which resulted the third alarm before it was placed under control at around midnight.

Gaspar estimated the cost of damage to property at P500,000.

He said that the specific cause of the fire remains under investigation although initially, he received reports that an unattended lit candle had triggered the blaze.

RESIDENTS of Tambunting Street in Sta. Cruz, Manila, help firemen put out a blaze which broke out in a house in the area shortly before midnight on Wednesday. MIGUEL DE GUZMAN

Chinese caught with P10M worth of shabu

By DJ Yap

FOLLOWING a string of high-profile arrests involving suspected Chinese drug traffickers, authorities yesterday arrested another Chinese man who was busted for trying to sell shabu to methamphetamine hydrochloride to an undercover anti-narcotics agent.

Ganmor Chen Go, also known as Tony Go, a 36-year-old Xiamen native, was busted by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) after he offering shabu to an undercover agent on Timog Avenue in Quezon City, before dawn, officials said.

PDEA Director General Jose R. Gutierrez Jr. said Go was caught handing over a "pillow wrapped" package containing a kilo of shabu to a PDEA agent at about 1 a.m.

He also yielded two other pill-wrapped packages each containing 500 grams of shabu, investigators said. The Go's drug transactions are worth at least P30 million, based on prevailing street prices.

Gutierrez added that Go had been placed by PDEA under surveillance as part of the so-called "Cross Operation Plan-Icarus" aimed at neutralizing threats posed by a group responsible for the proliferation of drugs in Metro Manila and nearby areas.

"Undercover PDEA agents entered into a transaction with Go a week ago for a kilogram of shabu (worth) P3.6 million. Go said his group normally transact with clients through (the) bank prior to delivery," Gutierrez said.

He said the PDEA was considering the possibility of referring the case to the Anti-Money Laundering Council to investigate possible money laundering activities.

Earlier this week, Marvin Ira, a Chinese-Filipino model and businessman was arrested at his house in Quezon City after he received packages addressed to him that contained eight kilos of shabu worth P40 million.

Ira's followers are wary of drug operations, including raids on houses in the exclusive Ayala Alabang Village which led to the seizure of drugs and drug-making equipment, and the interception of drug ingredients by customs officials.

Anticrime checkpoint nets 2 theft suspects

CHECKPOINT.

Two suspected motorcycle thieves were killed in a shootout in Taytay, Rizal, yesterday morning after they refused to stop at a checkpoint and bullets had put as part of an anticrime program, called "Oplan Clean Sweep."

Supt. Arthur Masangcong, Taytay police chief, identified the two men as Jake Buenaventura and Nerio del Rosario.

Masangcong said that at around 2:30 a.m., policemen Buenaventura and Del Rosario were on a red motorcycle with plate number 6855SS when they were flagged down by policemen manning a checkpoint on Sitio-pan Street in Barangay San Juan.

The checkpoint had been set up in the area as part of Oplan Clean Sweep which is aimed at curbing crimes carried out by motorcycle-riding men.

"But instead of stopping, the two men sped away, prompting the policemen to go after them," Masangcong said.

During the chase, one of the motorcycle riders took out a gun and fired at the police, leading to a shoot-out which resulted in both men's death.

Police later recovered two .38-cal. pistols from them.

A progress report submitted to Masangcong showed that the motorcycle used by the two men was stolen on Jan. 21.

The owner of the vehicle, Randy Espiritu, later positively identified Buenaventura as the one who rode his motorcycle in Barangay San Juan, according to the report.

A check also showed that the two men were involved in a series of motorcycle thefts and drug-related activities in the municipality. Jo-Ann Pelone Mangasoy

Navotas school resumes classes; charges readied vs hostage-taker

By Kristine Felicia Mangunay

CLASSES resumed at Navotas Polytechnic College (NPC) yesterday morning, almost 24 hours after the school became the stage for a hostage drama which played out in front of a huge crowd of science (followers).

Virginia Cruz, NPC administrative officer, said the lessons that things were back to normal even though questions had been raised about the adequacy of security measures being implemented by school authorities.

"Our president Francisco Roque is coordinating with (Navotas) Congressman (Toby) Tiangco about that," Cruz said.

NPC has a student population of 2,000.

She added that the hall was planning to increase the number of security guards assigned to the school campus.

"Seven (more) three-seater already bullet-resistant shields during their rounds here. What happened yesterday was an isolated incident. It's just as happened that the (hostage-taker) is a former student (so) the guard let him in," Cruz said.

Meanwhile, charges of serious illegal detention, grave coercion and grave threats were being prepared against Esmeraldo Garcia III who remains detained at the city police station.

For almost five hours on Wednesday, he held a school employee hostage as he demanded that he be allowed to see his domestic co-defendant.

The television reporters he had asked to see, however, refused, citing company policies which prohibited them from interfering in police operations.

Garcia later released his hostage, Amy Perez, unharmed and gave himself up to the police without a fight. In subsequent interviews, he said he took Perez hostage to protest the alleged unreasonable policies being implemented in a state university which he did not identify.

He clarified, however, that his bad-mouthing against NPC.

Senior Supt. Florendo Quitoyen, Navotas police chief, said police duty supervisor Perez is the charges against Garcia today.

"He told her to go home yesterday but we asked her to come back so she can file a case against him," he told the reporters.

CITATION FOR MAYOR Paranaque Mayor Florencio Barrueto Jr. (second from left) receives a painting by artist Ivan Acosta and a plaque of recognition during Manila Water Services Inc.'s fifth anniversary celebration. Barrueto was cited for encouraging and enabling the expansion of the water company's service coverage in his city. Also present at the awarding were Manila Water officials (from left) president Victorino F. Vargas, chair Manuel V. Pangilinan, chief operating officer Richard H. Cuscueja and Chief Finance officer Randolph T. Estrellado. CORNELIO DACUYCUY

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Greenbelt

3 armed car thieves take architect's vehicle, possessions in Manila

By Jeannette I. Andrade

AN ARCHITECT lost his sports utility vehicle and P200,000 worth of personal items to armed car thieves in Manila yesterday.

Dennis Diego, 37, of La Loma, Quezon City, was driving his wife and child home when he hit a bump on the road and was compelled to stop on the brakes.

While he was checking on the possible damage to his vehicle, three men took advantage of the situation and pulled the brake.

SPO2 Rodrigo Ocuma, of the Manila Police District anticarnapping and hijacking (MPD-AVCADE) unit, said the suspects took Diego's white Mitsubishi Montero Sport (PEQ 377) and his valuables.

Ocuma said the incident happened at around 3:30 a.m. at the corner of España Boulevard and M. dela Fuente Street in Sampaloc.

Costly stop

According to the complaint, Diego was driving along España Boulevard on his way to La Loma when he hit a bump on the road.

Concerned that his SUV could have been damaged, the architect stopped at the corner of M. dela Fuente Street in front of a 24-hour convenience store to check his car.

Loot

When Diego returned to the driver's seat, an armed man was already manning the steering wheel.

Two other men, one of them brandishing a handgun, were also inside with his wife and child.

The thieves ordered the family off the SUV and drove off with vehicle and their belongings.

The Diegos lost two laptop computers worth P300,000; a professional camera valued at P65,000; a mobile phone priced at P65,000; their wedding ring worth P25,000; and a bank checkbook.

Ocuma said the suspects would have been tracking the SUV ever earlier.

"The suspects could only have been waiting for the victims to stop," he said, adding that Diego may not have noticed the men following him.

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Greenbelt

Annual calibration of taxi meters on

By Paolo G. Montecillo

THE Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) is reminding taxi operators to submit their units to the annual "counting" of meters for proper calibration, or risk being impounded.

Passengers have often complained about cabs with "fast" meters that result in erratic charging.

Taxis with tampered meters will face cancellation of their permits to operate.

Complaints

"We are getting a lot of complaints so we want to make sure that units are charging their passengers the correct amount," LTFRB Board Member Manuel Iway told the Inquirer.

"All passengers need to do is to take down the plate number and trade name of the erring taxi and call the LTFRB. It does not have any complication. We will summon the taxi operator for hearing," Iway said.

LTFRB seals on taxi meters are an assurance that fares are properly collected, ensuring that passengers are charged fairly based on government-approved rates.

Iway said taxis with plate numbers ending in 1 and 6 should have their meters calibrated on January and June every year.

Those with plates ending in 2 and 7 are scheduled for counting on February and July. March and August for plates ending in 3 and 8; 4 and 9 for April and September; and 5 and 0 in May and October.

Those who will have their taxis recoded after their scheduled dates will be fined P1,25 for every week of tardiness.

Iway said that despite the hard job of recalibrating thirty-thousand fare call taxi members, many operators were still unaware of the requirement.

Last January, 4,500 taxis were brought in for recording, he added.

There are a total of 49,669 taxis in the country today, based on LTFRB records.

More than half, or 27,022 units, are located in Metro Manila.

DRIED IS BETTER
Tess Tiongco, a fisherman, dries his daily catch of crawling baskets calling this fish or a mudfish in Manila. A kilo of dried mudfish sells for around P100, according to Tiongco. AFP/NOEL CELIS

Man killed in fall from 5th floor

By Jeannette I. Andrade

A 27-YEAR-OLD carwasher died after he lost his balance and fell from the fifth floor of a basement building in Manila on Wednesday night.

Before his fall, Jonathan Garcia, a resident of Building 22, Permanent Housing in Baler, Tondo, had been seated beside the railings of the corridor on the fifth floor, having drinks with his half-brother Roger Llamprer and several neighbors, who were playing pool.

PO3 Alvander Layugan of the Manila Police District homicide section said the victim suddenly lost his balance, toppled over the railings and fell to his death.

His friends went to his aid but Garcia died of his injuries while he was being rushed to the hospital, Layugan said.

Garcia's body was brought to a funeral home for autopsy and embalming.

UP student in ICU

From page A11

her daughter's head injuries.

"She is still unconscious, her vital signs have improved although we cannot say yet that she is out of danger," she added.

"She was already upset last time I saw her. She wants the exams to get up," Elena said.

She told the Inquirer that the son shocked when she learned that her daughter was attacked on the campus and at daytime.

"I wonder what UP is doing," Elena said.

Supt. Michael Macapagal of the Quezon City Police District said that it appeared that Lorilla had fought against her attacker who had identified himself as Carlo Pelayo.

"The LEDC room was in disarray," Macapagal said.

Pelayo, who was arrested, admitted that he hit the victim with a trophy which he grabbed from one of the cabinets inside the office.

A search is underway for his cohort who acted as the lookout.

"It was a crime of opportunity. There were several laptops and cell phones and the victim was alone at that time [inside the LEDC office]," Macapagal said.

They recovered from Pelayo a bag containing two laptop computers, an external drive and a flash drive. He also yielded a 12-inch long ice pick.

According to Macapagal, Pelayo faces robbery and frustrated homicide charges.

Imelda Arao, UP Assistant vice president for public affairs, said that based on the information he received, Pelayo and his cohort went to the LEDC office and pretended that they were to avail to rent a booth for the coming university fair.

They talked to Lorilla and another student and then left. At one point, the other student went out to buy food and left the victim alone.

Pelayo then returned, locked the door to the office while his cohort remained outside.

Arao said that no one heard any commotion inside the LEDC office.

She stated on the victim was only discovered when the other student returned and found the door locked. She looked around until she found a spare key and discovered Lorilla unconscious and bleeding on the floor when she finally managed to open the door.

Lorilla was first brought to the UP Infirmary before she was rushed to Capitol Medical Center.

Arao said the campus police was able to secure Pelayo when he ran away after the building security guard approached him and questioned him about the black bag he was carrying.

According to the guard, he became suspicious because Pelayo was not carrying a bag when he entered the building.

Pelayo managed to board a taxi cab but the guard showed his companions who flagged the vehicle down.

Arao said UP would conduct its own investigation of the incident. "There's a need to preserve the integrity of the campus by unleashing the security," he admitted although he said that they could only do so much with the university's limited financial resources.

MetroBriefs

Tagaig police step up security in city

AFTER a string of accidents and crimes in the city in the past weeks, the Tagaig City Police have unveiled a number of measures they have implemented to reduce and prevent crimes. Speaking at a city council hearing, city police chief Senior Supt. Tomas Apolinario enumerated four programs aimed at increasing police visibility and speeding up their response to calls for help. "We will perform our best so that we can attain the city's goal of a peaceful and economically-developed Tagaig," he said. The first program involves deploying police officers in barangays to maintain police visibility and speed up the response time. "With this, we hope to encourage many of residents and improve the conduct of monitoring in individual communities," Apolinario said. He also provided for the reactivation of the Tagaig Mobile Patrol Group which would involve coordinating with community volunteers in securing their respective areas. Individual patrol groups will consist of six members (five police and several unarmed barangay watchmen) who will roam a designated area. "We have always observed that the patrols are their strongest deterrent to crime. We will put more patrol units," Senior Supt. Apolinario said. The third program involves coordinating with barangay officials for installing more cctv's in strategic areas to further secure residential areas while the fourth program will see the police conduct coordinated checkpoints, surveillance and other operations daily in different parts of the city. "We hope to implement most of these programs in the first quarter of this year," Apolinario said. **Katherine R. Meliton**

PUP grand alumni homecoming on March 17

SUCCESSFUL and political economy graduates of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) are invited to the grand alumni homecoming on Saturday, March 17, at 6 p.m. at the Bahaygang Sambayan, Blas Ople Drive, PUP Sta. Mesa campus in Manila. The homecoming with the theme "It's more fun to be back!" promises to be a fun-filled and exciting event. A registration fee of P500 will be collected to cover food, drinks, band and movies. Interested alumni may contact Jonathan Cuevas for a copy of the souvenir program. For more info, call Jean Bell at 0920-9403599 or 5022-3017/3008; Alan Guillo, 0917-5121081; Belle Reyes Bernas, 0917-8182227; Nonie Lubang, 0920-6994880; Ronie Hidalgo Ilinca, 0920-2928573; or visit the group's Facebook page at http://www.facebook.com/groups/PUPLIMA or email ace_pup@yahoo.com.

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US, allies exploring prospects for Assad exile

WASHINGTON—The United States, European governments and Arab states have begun discussing the possibility of exile for Syrian president Bashar al-Assad despite skepticism that the defiant Syrian president is ready to consider such an offer, Western officials said on Wednesday.

While talks have not progressed far and there is no real sense that Assad's full circumstances, one official said as many as three countries were willing to take him as a way to bring an end to Syria's bloody 10-month-old crisis.

The sources said an European states were prepared to give Assad sanctuary, but one official said the United Arab Emirates might be among those open to the idea.

Talk of exile has surfaced amid mounting international pressure on Assad and a diplomatic showdown over a proposed Arab League resolution at the United Nations aimed at getting him to transfer power. He has responded by stepping up assaults on opposition strongholds.

With the White House insisting he wrote that Assad's days in power are numbered, it was unclear whether the memo was an attempt to persuade the Syrian leader and his family to grasp the chance of a safe exit instead of risking the fate of Libya's Muammar Gaddafi, who was bruised and killed by rebels last year.

But with Assad showing no remorse in charge of a powerful security apparatus and the Syrian opposition fragmented militarily, it would also be an effort to ramp up psychological pressure and open new cracks in his inner circle.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said neither the United States nor the European Union had taken the lead on the idea, which has been advanced by Arab nations as a way to try to end the violence in Syria.

"We understand that some countries have offered to host him should he choose to leave Syria," a senior Obama administration official said, without naming one of the countries.

Before that could happen, however, the question of whether Assad would be granted some kind of immunity would have to be tackled—something the Syrian opposition as well as international human rights groups would likely oppose.

"There are significant questions of accountability for the horrible abuses that have been committed against the Syrian people," the senior US official said.

"Ultimately these issues will be deliberated by the Syrian people in concert with regional and international partners," the official said. "This is about what Syrians need to end this crisis and begin the process of rebuilding their country."

While US officials maintained that exile was worth exploring among other options, one European official voiced doubts it would work, saying Assad had given no indication that he might accept a graceful exit.

Bruce Riedel, a former CIA analyst who has advised President Barack Obama, said Assad's entourage appeared to be eyeing in exile as political solution to Syria modeled after Yemen.

Yemen President Ali Abdullah Saleh arrived in the United States on Saturday for treatment of wounds suffered in an assassination attempt in June. Under a power transfer plan drawn up by Gulf Arab countries for Saleh to step down to end a year of protests against his rule, a vice president is presiding over a unity government with presidential elections set for Feb. 21.

"Assad and his wife get safe exile," said Riedel, now at the Brookings Institution think-tank in Washington. "But who will take him? Iran? Hamas? UK? And does he get immunity like Saleh?"

Officials stressed the discussions of the exile option for Assad were at an early stage and there was no agreed plan on how such an exit might be orchestrated.

A European official said EU members were willing to consider the idea of Assad going into exile but that there was "no way we'd leave him to run countries."

One priority remains ending the bloodshed in Syria and the regime are perpetrating against Syrian civilians, and facilitating a peaceful and orderly transition to democracy," the senior US administration official said. Reuters

SYRIAN rebels take position behind a wall and fire their guns during clashes with the Syrian government forces, at Bustan ezza in Homs province, central Syria, on Jan. 30. –

Mexican general charged in killings, other abuses

MEXICO CITY—An army general and soldiers under his command sent to fight drug cartels in a border town have been charged in military court with carrying out killings, torture, drug-dealing and other crimes, government officials confirmed last week.

The case, stemming from events in 2008 and 2009, appears to be one of the most serious reports of human rights abuse to surface publicly since Mexico began to fight against warring drug gangs in 2006, an effort that has left 47,000 deaths, according to government data.

Human rights groups have tallied thousands of complaints of unexplained killings, disappearances, torture and physical abuse at the hands of federal forces, particularly the Army and increasingly the Marines, but the circumstances of this case, first reported this week by the newspaper Reforma, stood out.

The general, Manuel de Jesus Moreno Torres, and his subordinates have been charged with systematically ordering the killings of at least seven civilians in Chihuahua state, according to Reforma, which cited documents in the investigation and an interview with a military prosecutor.

The victims included a police officer who had stopped Moreno on suspicion of drunken driving and a businessman who complained to federal officials after a raid on his house. One victim tied to a post on a military base died after receiving repeated electric shocks.

The officers and soldiers in Ojinaga, a town across from Presidio, Texas, also tortured civilians at will and participated in drug and arms trafficking, the report said.

In a report released in November, Human Rights Watch said that in more than 5,671 human rights reports to the military justice system between 2007 and 2011, only 20 soldiers have been convicted of crimes.

Mexico's Supreme Court ruled last year that soldiers should be tried in civilian courts for human rights violations, and President Felipe Calderon has promised steps toward that, but no for murder charges. – New York Times News Service

A CHILD walks along a sea wall covered in ice on the frozen shores of the Black Sea in Constanta, Romania, on Feb. 1. –

Europe freeze kills 89

KIEV-BUCHAREST—Record low temperatures in parts of Eastern Europe pushed the death toll from Arctic conditions to at least 89 people on Wednesday, and have forced Russian gas provider Gazprom to warn over supplies to Europe.

Europe had enjoyed a relatively mild winter up until last weekend when a bitterly cold wind swinging in from the east brought that to an abrupt halt.

A source at Russian gas export monopoly which supplies a quarter of Europe's gas imports, said it was getting many requests from export markets than it could physically accommodate or demand from Russia spikes.

"Unprecedented increasing gas consumption in Russia due to heavy frosts, Gazprom continues implementing its contractual obligations to European clients," it said.

In Ukraine, 45 people have died in the past few days, in emergency ministry said, as the former Soviet republic experienced its coldest winter in six years.

Overnight temperatures sank as low as minus 35 degrees Celsius (minus 27 Fahrenheit) and hundreds of heated tents have been put up to shelter the homeless.

"They say the whole February will be cold, and the first half of March, so we have to get ready for the worst," said Viktor, who is living on the streets of Kiev.

European weather alert network Meteoalarm warned of "extremely dangerous" conditions in several parts of eastern Europe, including Kiev, where a fourth person was found dead overnight in the southwestern Izvalav mountains.

Security forces there, and in neighboring Russia, have sent helicopters to ferry supplies to areas cut off by deep snow and to evacuate the elderly. The forecast across the Balkans is for conditions in western through the week. Mercedes said severe cold was likely to persist in continental Europe including Germany and southeastern Europe. – Reuters

After Florida win, Romney makes gaffe; Gingrich eyes Trump boost

LAS VEGAS, Nevada—Republican White House frontrunner Mitt Romney stumbled a day after his Florida triumph with a gaffe about poor Americans, while rival Newt Gingrich eyed a boost on Thursday from Donald Trump.

Populist real estate tycoon and reality TV star Trump, who flirted with running for the presidency himself last year, was expected to throw his weight behind Gingrich at a "major announcement" in Las Vegas.

Both Republican frontrunners' confidence bonded from Florida as the tension in battleground state of Nevada a day after Romney soundly defeated Gingrich in the Sunshine State, retaking the lead in the White House nomination race.

But the multimillionaire former Massachusetts governor triggered immediate criticism for a controversial comment about America's poorest citizens, which threatened to close his comeback.

"I'm not concerned about the very poor. We have a safety net there. If it needs repair, I'll fix it," said Romney, a wealthy businessman who has never acknowledged earning $20 million in 2010.

"I'm not concerned about the very rich, they're doing just fine." the former senator said. "I'm concerned about the middle class, the 90-95 percent of Americans who right now are struggling." The remarks came as the race for the right to take on Democratic President Barack Obama in November widened.

Obama's numbers, and were quickly seized upon by his opponents.

Gingrich, who lost to Romney by more than 14 percentage points in Florida, fired back at his rival.

"I am fed up with politicians in either party dividing Americans against each other. I am running to be president of all the American people and I am concerned about all of the American people," Gingrich said in Nevada.

Romney swiftly tried to explain his remarks, telling reporters traveling with him on his plane that they should consider everything he said, rather than just part of the sentence.

"Of course I'm concerned about all Americans... poor, wealthy, middle class, but the focus of my effort will be on middle income families who I think have been most hurt by the Obama economy," he said later.

At a campaign stop in Las Vegas on Wednesday evening Romney was back on track, drawing cheers with his usual stump speech and taking digs at Obama's policies, including his backing for "European-style" health care.

Romney also attacked the "naivety" of an announcement on Wednesday by Defense Secretary Leon Panetta that the US plans to end its combat mission in Afghanistan in 2013, one year before most US troops are due to withdraw.

"Why in the world do you go to the people that you're fighting with, and tell them the day you're pulling out your troops? It makes absolutely no sense," he told hundreds of supporters in a suburban Vegas warehouse.

On Thursday 43 cops will be on Trump, who scheduled an announcement for 12:30 p.m.—which the New York Times and other media said would be an endorsement for Gingrich.

Public backing from Trump, host of the popular celebrity version of reality TV show "The Apprentice," could give the former House speaker a higher media profile and aid him in fundraising.

Nevada holds its caucus vote on Saturday, along with a dollar caucus in Maine, while five other US states will hold votes in the coming month. AFP

Studies: Alzheimer's spreads like a virus in the brain

ALZHEIMER'S disease seems to spread like an infection from brain cell to brain cell, two new studies find. But instead of viruses or bacteria, what is being spread is a clotted protein known as tau.

The surprising finding answers a longstanding question and has immediate implications for developing treatments, researchers said. And, they said, they suspect that other degenerative brain diseases, like Parkinson's, may spread in the brain in a similar way.

Alzheimer's researchers have long known that dying, tau-filled cells first emerge in a small area of the brain where memories are made and stored. The disease then slowly moves outward to larger areas of the brain that involve remembering and reasoning.

But for more than a quarter century they have been unable to decide between two explanations. The spread may mean that the disease is transmitted from neuron to neuron, perhaps along the paths nerve cells use to communicate with one another. Or it could simply mean that some brain areas are more resilient than others and so outlast the disease longer.

The new studies provide an answer. And they indicate it may be possible in being a patient's Alzheimer's disease to an almost halt very early to its course by preventing this cell-to-cell transmission, perhaps with an antibody that blocks tau.

The studies, done independently by researchers at Columbia and Harvard universities, involved genetically engineered mice that could make abnormal human tau proteins, but functionally only in the cerebellum cortex (pronounced ra-tah-HIN-nal), a sliver of tissue behind the ears, around the middle of the brain, where cells first start dying in Alzheimer's disease. New York Times News Service

EGYPTIANS have rushed onto the field following Al-Ahly club soccer match against Al-Masry club at the soccer stadium in Port Said, Egypt on Feb. 1.

Soccer violence in Egypt kills 74

PORT SAID, Egypt—Seventy-four people were killed when supporters clashed at an Egyptian soccer match, prompting fans and politicians on Thursday to rains on the ruling Army for failing to prevent the deadliest incident since Hosni Mubarak was ousted.

At least 1,000 people were injured in the violence on Wednesday when soccer fans waged a pitch invasion to the Mediterranean city of Port Said, even though local teams in the country have withdrawn from Cairo, Al Ahli, Egypt's most successful club.

Angry politicians denounced the lack of security at the match and blamed military leaders for allowing, or even causing, the tragedy. The Muslim Brotherhood, the Islamist group that dominates parliament, rose as "invisible" hand at work.

The city's streets were quiet at dawn, with hardly any police or Army officers in sight.

"The military council wants to prove that the country is heading toward chaos and disorder. They are Mubarak's men. They are applying his strategy when he said 'choose me or choose chaos,'" said Mahmoud el-Sagqa, 30, a laboratory technician and member of the Coalition of the Revolutionary Youth in Port Said.

"Down with military rule," thousands of Egyptians chanted at the main Cairo train station where they met injured fans returning from what a minister said was the worst of Egypt's many soccer disasters.

Hundreds of protesters gathered outside the state television building and marched across the capital were planned.

Field Marshal Mohamed Hussein Tantawi, 76, who heads the ruling military council, took an unusual step of speaking by telephone to a television channel, the sport broadcaster owned by Al Ahli club, vowing to crack down the culprits. The Army announced three days of national mourning.

"I deeply regret what happened at the football match in Port Said. I offer my condolences to the victims' families," Tantawi said in comments broadcast on state television.

It did little to assuage the anger of fans, who, like many Egyptians, see furious that Egypt is still plagued by lawlessness and frequent bouts of deadly violence almost a year since Mubarak was driven out and replaced by an Army council.

As with past flare-ups, it quickly turned political. Parliament will hold an emergency session later on Thursday to discuss the violence.

"The people want the execution of the field marshal," fans chanted at the stadium. "We will secure their rights, or die like them," they said as covered bodies were unloaded from the trains.

The post-match pitch invasion provoked panic among the crowd as steel bars bought. Most of the deaths were among people who were trampled in the crush of the panicking crowd or who fell or were thrown from crowded, unlit stairways and terrace walkways.

Television footage showed some security officers in the stadium shooting in sign of trying to stop the pitch invasion. One officer was filmed as people poured into the field, talking on a mobile phone.

"The rush caused a stampede, people were pushing each other against the metal door and stepping on each other," said one witness who attended the match, 23-year-old Omnia El-Zayat.

"We saw six poles lying there in the air, and then everyone got scared and kept pushing against the locked door. We didn't know whether police were firing live rounds or not. People were crying and dying," he said. Reuters

The WORLD

Ellen Lamrene B. Gasco

US to end Afghan combat role earlier

BRUSSELS—In a milestone toward ending a decade of war in Afghanistan, Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta on Wednesday said that US forces would step back from a combat role there as early as mid-2013, more than a year before all US troops are scheduled to come home.

Panetta cast the decision as an orderly step in a withdrawal process long planned by the United States and its allies, but his statement went the first time that the US had put a date on stepping back from its central role in the war. The defense secretary's words reflected the Obama administration's eagerness to bring to a close the second of two grinding ground wars it inherited from the Bush administration.

Promising the end of the US combat mission in Afghanistan next year would also give President Barack Obama a certain applause line in his reelection strategy speech this fall.

Panetta said no decisions had been made about the number of US troops to be withdrawn in 2013, and he made clear that substantial fighting lies ahead. "It doesn't mean that we're not going to be combat-ready; we will be, because we always have to be in order to defend ourselves," he told reporters on his plane on his way to a Nato meeting in Brussels, where Afghanistan is to be a central focus.

The US has some 90,000 troops in Afghanistan, but 23,000 of them are due home by this fall. There has been no schedule set for the pace of the withdrawal of the 68,000 US troops who will remain—only that all are to be out by the end of 2014.

Obama offered no details of what stepping back from combat would mean, saying only that the troops would move into an "advise-and-assist" role to Afghanistan's security forces. Such definitions are typically murky, particularly in a country like Afghanistan, where US forces are spread widely among small bases across the desert, farmland and mountains, and where the earlier security forces have a mixed record of success or loss.

The definite new step was to offload the withdrawal of the United States from Iraq as a model. US troops there eventually pulled back to large bases and left the bulk of the fighting to the Iraqis.

At the same time, Panetta said the Nato discussions would also focus on a potential downsizing of Afghan security forces from 356,000 troops, largely because of the expense of maintaining such a large army. The US and other Nato countries support those forces at a cost of around $6 billion a year, but financial crises in Europe are causing countries to balk at the bill.

"The funding is going to largely determine the kind of force we can maintain in the future," Panetta said.

He and his team played down last week's announcement by President Hamid Karzai of France that Nato country would break with its Nato allies and accelerate the withdrawal of its troops there as violence continued to surge.

A US soldier throws away the shell of a 120mm mortar after firing rounds at Taliban positions near the Afghanistan-Pakistan border in photo taken on Dec. 6. AFP/File

Panetta said the French decision to leave Afghanistan by pulling back its troops a year early, by the end of 2012, was "a sovereign decision" by France. But he said the US might be able to move more quickly, although they acknowledged confusion about the French president's statement and said their goal was to end it out at the Nato meeting on Thursday.

"A lot of policy officials in Nato were scrambling" after Sarkozy's announcement, a senior US defense official said. "No getting exactly to what the French horizon line is hasn't been easy for them, nearly less for us." The official asked for anonymity because he was discussing the internal deliberations of another country.

Sarkozy made the announcement after an attack by a rogue Afghan soldier who killed four uniformed French soldiers on a training mission. There have been similar incidents of Afghan troops' killing of US forces, most recently involving the death of a Marine in Helmand province early Wednesday.

The senior defense official said the Americans considered the attacks as "isolated incidents," although "obviously very disturbing." He said existing procedures for Afghan security forces were being reviewed.

Panetta said he would also seek to reassure Nato that although budget constraints need a focus on Asia were forcing the US to withdraw two combat brigades—as many as 15,000 troops—from Europe, it was not abandoning its allies. The US, he said, would try to make up some of the difference by running more troops in for training exercises in Europe. New York Times News Service

Taliban still determined, confident, Nato report says

KABUL, Afghanistan—More Taliban insurgents are being killed or captured than ever before, yet where the capitures are concentrated by the US military, they remain convinced that they are winning the war.

That is because the Taliban believe that their new hearts-and-minds campaign is winning over Afghans—or as they tell their interrogators—and even subverting growing numbers of Afghan government officials and soldiers.

Those are among some of the findings of a Nato report, "State of the Taliban 2011," based on 27,000 interrogations of 4,000 Taliban and other captives that portrays a Taliban insurgency that is far from vanquished or demoralized even as the US and its allies enter what they hope to be the final phase of the war. A copy of the document, which was first reported by the BBC and The Times of London, was given to The New York Times by a Western official, on the condition of anonymity because it was classified.

The revelations in the report coincide with an announcement on Wednesday by Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta that US forces would step back from a combat role in Afghanistan as early as mid-2013, more than a year before all US troops are scheduled to come home.

Yet the report provides a refreshing counterpoint to the coalition's decidedly more upbeat public assessments of progress in the war and of the Afghanistan that Nato says it will leave behind. It abounds with accounts of cooperation between the insurgents and local government officials or security forces, as well as accounts from Taliban detainees who claim that in areas where additional soldiers are still arriving, the Afghan military is cooperating with the insurgents to hand over control to them.

"Many Afghans are already financing themselves for an eventual return of the Taliban," the report says. The Afghan government "continues to declare its willingness to fight, yet many of its personnel have secretly reached out to insurgents, seeking long-term options in the event of a possible Taliban victory," it adds.

The report's findings roundly challenge many of the assumptions on which US policy in Afghanistan is based: that US military might will force the Taliban to the negotiating table; that the coalition's counterinsurgency strategy will increase support for the government among Afghans; and that as Nato troops leave, Afghan security forces will be able to take over the duties.

It also portrays a tight yet nuanced relationship between the Taliban and their Pakistani patrons, one not only of wearisome servile dependence, but also of frank cursing and it says that the Taliban have gradually distanced themselves from al-Qaeda. The Taliban's alliance with al-Qaeda was the reason that coalition forces entered Afghanistan after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Publication of the report just Nato officials on the defensive, and on Wednesday they issued an unusually detailed rebuttal. A spokesperson for the Nato-led coalition played down the findings and emphasized that Nato analysts did not necessarily accept the views of the Taliban detainees as valid.

"This document aggregates the comments of Taliban detainees in a captive environment without considering the validity of or motivation behind their assertions," said Lt. Col. Jimmie E. Cummings of the International Security Assistance Force. "Any conclusions drawn from this would be questionable at best."

"It is important not to draw conclusions based on Taliban comments or messages," Cummings said. "These detainees include some of the most motivated and ruthless of the insurgents, who are inspired to play up their success. It is what they want us to believe they think." New York Times News Service

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Editor Raul G. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

Local stock index hits all-time high

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
Feb. 2, 2012
42.660

STOCK MARKET
Feb. 2, 2012
106.44
PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

Gaming firm eyes hotel, leisure venture

LH TEO relies quite largely IP [illegible] Hotels Inc. is planning to expand into the gaming, hotel and leisure industry.

The company said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange that it would build a [illegible]

MARTINEZ, B2

Investors bet on rosier outlook for economy in 2012

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE LOCAL stock index broke past 4,800 to a new record high yesterday as investors cheered the favorable stream of fourth-quarter 2011 corporate earnings and are now betting on rosier prospects for the local economy this year.

The Philippine Stock Exchange index surged 106.44 points or 2.26 percent to 4,802.08. All counters rallied in broad-based buying [illegible] was boosted most by SM Investments Corp., the holding firm of Tycoon Henry Sy, which gained 4.23 percent to close at a new record high of P577 a share. There was a trade of about 1.1 million shares of PSEi each for a total of P8.4 billion, which a spokesperson from SMIC said was only part of the conglomerate's "portfolio adjustment."

Shares of Ayala Corp., which is now getting more aggressive in [illegible] in the infrastructure space, also jumped 4.9 percent to P397.

"The gains of the market the past two days are broad-based, suggesting a sustained bullishness by investors. Now that companies have started announcing 2011 profits, investors continue to upgrade their expectations of above-average earnings growth in 2012 and ignoring rapidly rising valuation multiples," said Jose Mari Lanzon, head of research at local stock brokerage Unicapital Securities Inc.

At these levels, Lanzon estimated that the market was trading at a price to earnings multiple of 17x, which means investors were paying 17 times the amount of earnings in the stock market.

The PSEi's new high also cornered the market's tightest performance, said Manny Libeza, deputy chief in PSE broadcast. "It seems that a decoupling of sorts is happening. That is, a weakness in developed markets would serve to drive rather than dampen appetite for emerging market assets," he said.

Robert Stegner, president of the Investment Service Institute

LOCAL B4

Fitch says PH banks in good shape, keeps 'stable' outlook

Ratings firm cites strong liquidity, capital base

By Michelle V. Ramos

FITCH RATINGS has maintained a "stable" outlook on Philippine banks, saying they were likely to remain in relatively good shape even with the lingering uncertainties in the global environment.

A "stable" outlook means that the banks' existing credit ratings, some of which are the same as that of the national government at a notch below investment grade, are likely to remain the same within the short term.

Fitch said the strong liquidity and capital base of Philippine banks would help them mitigate impact of existing risks from the international.

"Fitch expects most rated banks to maintain sound core capital, which is vital in mitigating risks from their balance sheets and the operating environment," the credit rating firm said.

"Most rated banks in the country have liquid balance sheets and deposits as their main funding source, thanks to ample domestic liquidity," it added.

While the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas requires banks to maintain a minimum 10 percent capital adequacy ratio (CAR)—the proportion of capital to risk-exposed assets of banks—the average for universal and commercial banks in the country stands at about 15 percent.

Moreover, Fitch stressed that the banks' core capital—which included equity shares and retained earnings and are considered having the highest quality among types of capital—stood at a healthy 13.6 percent.

Given this, the credit rating firm said any deterioration in the global economic performance arising from the lingering crisis in the eurozone should not significantly hamper profitgeneration of Philippine banks.

Should some corporate clients of banks find difficulty paying their loans, Fitch said the banks have the ability to absorb such losses.

Earlier, BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said banks in the country have minimal exposure to the euro zone.

Citing data as of end-June 2012, Tetangco said that banks and other investments issued from the euro zone and held by Philippine banks accounted for only 1.4 percent of their investments.

The rose a decline from the 23 percent registered at the start of 2012, something Tetangco said was an indication that Philippine banks immediately disposed of their encumbrances issued when the debt crisis in the Europe started to escalate.

Moreover, Fitch said there were risks to the "stable" outlook on Philippine banks. It said one of the challenges confronting banks in the country was the heavy concentration of loans to a few corporate borrowers.

Fitch expects the structural balance sheet issues of many rated Philippine banks (including concentrated loan books and foreclosed properties with poor recovery) to be a main source of impairment, especially if the rising global uncertainties were to significantly affect domestic operating conditions," the credit rating firm said.

Nonetheless, Fitch said the significant capitalization of banks cushioned the impact of default risks on their financial standing.

"However, the agency believes most single-borrower concentrations are within threshold, thereby preserving their liquidity and capitalization," it said.

Subpoenaed business records

TED COMPANIES that earlier sold real estate properties to Chief Justice Renato Corona and members of his family are getting some unwanted publicity in his impeachment trial. The prosecution's line of questioning and its spokesperson's post-hearing statements tend to convey the impression that these sales were anomalous if not questionable circumstances.

Under pain of contempt, the companies' representatives have no choice but comply with the impeachment court's order to testify on these transactions and submit copies of their corporate documents. It's reasonable enough to testify in an ordinary trial where only your personnel, the litigants and their lawyers are present, what more in a hearing that is aired live nationwide on TV and radio.

With thousands of Filipinos keeping an watchful eye, outside distraction during the hearing are magnified to become fodder for criticism by radio and print commentators. The witnesses are probably as confident as the others who are unfamiliar with court procedures when the contending lawyers raise objections in the course of their testimony. So far, the witnesses have made a good account of themselves. Except for some minor slips, they were able to weather the cross-examination of the defense lawyers and senator-judges.

Responsibility

But contingent that have not had the experience of being subpoenaed by a court to send their representatives to testify and produce documents in their possession, the proceedings in the impeachment trial are instructive. Unless a company is the plaintiff or defendant, its favored target persons in court usually arises from a subpoena ba ito mapanuwasalan or for prosecution to testify and to submit documents in its possession (duces tecum), or both. As a matter of practice, to expedite the proceedings, this kind of subpoena is often labeled ad testificandum and duces tecum.

But contrary to the general impression, not all such subpoenas have to be complied with by the persons to whom they are directed. Under the Rules of Court, a subpoena may, upon motion of that party, be quashed or withdrawed if it is unreasonable or oppressive, as when it asks for documents that are 10 years old already or do not exist at all. Neither can a party be compelled to produce books or papers that are evidence or instrumental to the case being tried in court, which is akin to a "fishing expedition" where, by chance, something in the documents may help the requesting party's case.

And if neither of these reasons can be invoked, the subpoena may still be quashed where the party on whose behalf it is issued fails to advance the reasonable cost of the production of the documents.

Raoul J. Fehlenfeldt

Expenses

It would be unfair and financially burdensome for a witness to be ordered to spend his own money to, for example, hire a moving van to transport to and from the court the voluminous records asked by the requesting party. The funds that may be needed by a witness to comply with the subpoena should be remitted in his favor ahead of the hearing date. A promise to reimburse the amount on the day of the hearing or "initial payment then full payment later" is not acceptable. He answers no documentary.

Failure to obey a subpoena in court is a contempt, despite a subpoena, if the witness tenders in advance that is more than 100 kilometers away by ordinary means of travel from the court. In the instances earlier mentioned, it is essential that the party who wants the witness to be produced as for the proper motion is that effect before or on the date of the hearing. If he can produce the documents requested but the period between the day he received the subpoena and the hearing date is too short to enable him to collect them, he can ask for a resetting of the date of his appearance.

Failure to take any of these actions or ignoring the subpoena could put the subpoenaed witness at risk for a citation for contempt of court that may result in a fine or imprisonment.

Compliance

Presuming that a subpoena ad testificandum and duces tecum cannot be dodged, the first thing that a person covered by that order should do is to study the list of the requested documents. If these are clearly specified, fine. There will be no problem complying with the order. A problem may arise if the request is vague in generic terms, such as, financial records or corporate documents.

Do "financial records" include sales invoices, order slips, official receipts, accounting ledgers and financial statements? And for corporate documents, do they cover minutes of directors' meetings, executive minutes, or regulatory filings? Although the rules require that the documents sought to be subpoenaed should be identifiable, some lawyers use imprecise language in describing the records they want to subpoena, or, worse, if they are unsure of what documents they want, use words that are susceptible to very wide interpretations.

When caught in this situation, the better part of discretion is (if there is still time) to get a copy of the court's subpoena with the subpoena duces tecum so the purpose for which the subpoena was issued is clarified, or ask the requesting party to give a clearer description of the documents it wants produced in court.

For the layman, answering a court subpoena is not the same as arranging an appointment with the dentist for a tooth extraction... you don't look for wisdom but you have to because not going could give rise to adverse consequences. If a witness has nothing to hide and the documents he has been ordered to submit to the court are genuine, he has no reason to be worried. It's the party who requested his appearance who should worry because he does not know whether or not those documents would help his case.

—Joe Jardinel, please write to vopal.abrcom@inquirer.com.ph>.

NGCP to spend ₱14.3B for capex this year

By Amy R. Remo

THE NATIONAL Grid Corp. of the Philippines, operator of the country's electricity superhighway is spending P14.3 billion for 2013 alone to fund the construction and installation of critical transmission and substation projects.

Documents from the NGCP showed that this year's capital expenditure budget was slightly lower by 8.5 percent compared to last year's spending of P15.3-billion.

NGCP president Henry Ty Jr., however, admitted that this year would be "another challenging year for us, with our many projects lined up to further improve the operation and management of the Philippine transmission backbone."

"Needless to say, NGCP's continuous extension, reformation and improvement will require our sustained commitment, dedication and hard work," he said in a memorandum.

Gaming firm eyes hotel

From page B1

special stockholders' meeting is formally approve the amendment in its primary purpose so as to allow it to engage in its corporate name to reflect its new businesses.

"The board approved the amendment of Article II of its Articles of Incorporation to expand the primary purpose of the corporation to include hotel and beverage, entertainment and hotel and leisure," BF Corp. told the local bourse.

The company said it delegated to its executive committee "the authority to study and approve the selection of the new corporation name."

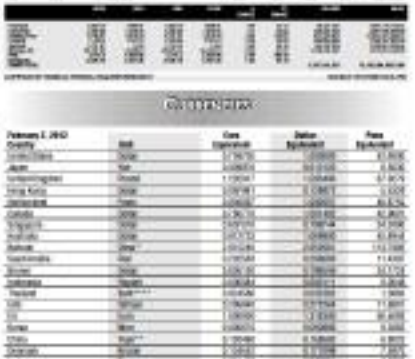
The company said its special stockholders' meeting would be held on March 22 at 3:30 p.m. BF Corp. has a market capitalization of ₱3.3 billion, which is more than 99 percent of the firm's shares are held by its controlling stockholders.

The amendments to increase its primary purpose were approved by its board in a special meeting held Thursday.

Last year, BF Corp. acquired several business components as a bid to expand its revenue stream. More than two thirds of all Filipinos were will access the web through Internet cafés.

The company also recently signed a memo acquisition deal with international game publisher Ellmed International, a transaction that the company said would "change the landscape of Philippine gaming." Paolo G. Montecillo

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE



CURRENCIES

February 1, 2013 Country	Unit	Cash Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	1.00000	1.00000	41.0000
Japan	Yen	0.01053	0.01053	0.4316
European Union	Euro	1.33000	1.33000	54.5530
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.12898	0.12898	5.2892
United Arab	Dirham	0.27229	0.27229	11.1664
Canada	Dollar	0.98133	0.98133	40.2446
Australia	Dollar	1.03600	1.03600	42.4876
New Zealand	Dollar	0.80000	0.80000	32.8000
Switzerland	Franc	1.09000	1.09000	44.6900
Bahrain	Dinar	2.65957	2.65957	109.0426
Saudi Arabia	Riyal	0.26667	0.26667	10.9340
Singapore	Dollar	0.80645	0.80645	33.0645
Taiwan	New Dollar	0.03390	0.03390	1.3899
Kuwait	Dinar	3.54610	3.54610	145.3901
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.32787	0.32787	13.4426
Thailand	Baht	0.03279	0.03279	1.3444
China	Yuan	0.16000	0.16000	6.5600
UK	Pound	1.61000	1.61000	66.0100
India	Rupee	0.01800	0.01800	0.7380
Korea	Won	0.00093	0.00093	0.0381
Qatar	Riyal	0.27500	0.27500	11.2750
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.00010	0.00010	0.0041
Vietnam	Dong	0.00005	0.00005	0.0020
Chile	Peso	0.00211	0.00211	0.0865
Mexico	Peso	0.07800	0.07800	3.1980
New Zealand	Dollar	0.80000	0.80000	32.8000
Sweden	Krona	0.15385	0.15385	6.3077
Brunei	Dollar	0.80645	0.80645	33.0645

Brazil miner to put up transshipment hub in PH

Move follows China ban on giant vessels at its ports

BUSINESS MIRROR, 2/3/2012

Vale is readying an alternative iron ore distribution base in the Philippines as China has banned the world's largest dry bulk ships from its ports, halting the Brazilian miner's plan to send its giant vessels in its top market.

China's transport ministry said on Tuesday its decision not to allow giant ships was in part a result of the severe downturn in the shipping industry that has hurt several leading shipping companies, as well as maritime safety issues.

Ships exceeding approved capacities were previously assessed on a case-by-case basis, but the ministry said in a statement on its website that giant dry bulk vessels and oil tankers were prohibited with immediate effect.

Vale is counting on a fleet of 35 giant ships called Valemax, each at 400,000 deadweight tons, to slash shipping costs to China to help it better compete with Australian rivals BHP Billiton and Rio Tinto.

"At the end of the day [they (China)] want to support their own. They are not interested in whether Vale will be able to provide cheap imports to competitors in Australia or Brazil," said George Lasanky, analyst at Israel Securities Investment. "They are interested in giving support to their shipowners, which are starting to become a significant force over the past couple of years, and to help that part of the industry grow."

With access to China closed, Vale has been forced to build a transshipment hub in the Philippines to reroute its mega ships, each costing around $150 million, unmanned-employed.

The world's largest dry bulk floating storage vessel, Ore Brilliance, turned by Vale, has docked in the Philippines' Subic Bay Freeport, a spokeswoman for the port told Reuters. The 360,000-deadweight-ton vessel will serve as a platform to transfer iron ore from the so-called Valemaxes to smaller ships for transport to China and other Asian markets such as Japan and South Korea.

Previously a crude oil tanker, the ship was converted by a Chinese shipyard to a floating storage vessel to be based in Subic Bay Freeport, hosted to the Philippines' main Luzon island, according to shipping data.

The 360,000-kg Bulgarian-owned was the first port-only Valemax allowed into China, docking at Dalian Port on Dec. 28 to unload iron ore—but has yet to be sold. Hiring expenditure from the China Shipowners Association has helped keep further ships from arriving at its domestic ports.

The group hopes the floor will give Vale a monopoly on both the shipping and iron ore market in China's expanse.

"China is so dependent on imported iron materials that it has a structural incentive to delay freight prices as much as possible," said Macquarie commodity analyst Evariste Tiraki. "And Vale's strategy with the VLOO, [Very Large Ore Carrier] was a direct threat to that because Vale would take the lower freight rate themselves, which really rebut China wants to do is to ensure there is oversupply in the freight market and to take advantage of that for itself."

Power Situation Outlook
for Friday, 3 February 2012

	Luzon	Visayas	Mindanao
Minimum reserve (MW)	8,052	1,890	1,231
Actual Peak (MW)	8,758	1,344	1,238
Time Occurred (MW)	1,234	348	-?

FREE DEMO!
SOLEASY

PRULINK	PRU LIFE UK
Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Feb. 01, 2012	Jan. 31, 2012
Bond Fund - Peso	1.20502	1.19851
Managed Fund - Peso	1.33819	1.33311
Growth Fund - Peso	1.37432	1.35987
Equity Fund - Peso	1.55803	1.53755
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.03660	1.03480
Managed Asset Fund	1.07103	1.06530
Secured Asset Fund II	1.03015	1.04000
Protection Fund - Peso	1.17547	1.17486
Money Market Fund - Peso	1.04149	1.04149
Asian Local Bond Fund - US Dollar	0.98990	

PLDT SMI Nation partners with Vcargo in providing customized logistics services to small and medium enterprises thru its SMI Logistics Solutions. VCargo retail store franchisees are now powered by PLDT SMI Nation's myONE Biz and hotline services. Shown in this picture are PLDT SMI Nation Vice President and Head Raz Luna-Reinarde (2nd from left), Vcargo President and CEO Paolo Thig (2nd from left), PLDT SMI Nation Business Head Jose Collong and Vcargo Business Unit Head Gino Tolentino.

Views from the TOP

Monterrey Know Your Meat Caravan

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Asian stocks extend global rally on economy hopes

Sentiment up as US seen growing more than expected in 2012

SINGAPORE—Asian stocks extended a global rally Thursday amid investor optimism that the US economy may grow more than previously expected this year.

Benchmark oil slipped below $100 per barrel while the dollar was lower against the euro but mostly against the yen.

Tokyo's Nikkei 225 rose 0.7 percent to 8,871.21 while Hong Kong's Hang Seng gained 1.1 percent to 20,529.66 and Seoul's Kospi added 1.1 percent to 1,980.90.

Signs of an improving US economy have helped bolster trader sentiment. Factories raised output in January by the most in nearly two years, according to the Institute for Supply Management's manufacturing index on Wednesday. And the Commerce Department said construction spending rose 1.5 percent in December, the fifth straight month of gains.

Investors have also been cheered by growing optimism that contagion from a likely Greek debt default can be contained.

Global equities are advancing "on hopes of the global economy gaining a solid footing and the banking sector continued to rally on the belief that Europe will avoid a catastrophe," IG Markets in Melbourne said in a report.

On Wednesday, the Dow Jones industrial average closed up 0.7 percent at 12,736.46. The S&P added 0.9 percent to 1,324.09 while the Nasdaq composite index rose 1.2 percent to close at 2,868.27.

European stock indexes also rose Wednesday. France's CAC 40 gained 2.1 percent while Britain's FTSE 100 rose 1.9 percent and Germany's DAX jumped 2.4 percent.

China's benchmark Shanghai Composite Index climbed 0.4 percent to 2,375.22 as Thursday saw mixed signs manufacturing improved in January for a second straight month.

Shares in Singapore, Australia, Taiwan, New Zealand, Thailand and India all gained ground.

"After stopping here a soft patch in the fourth quarter, Asian economies appeared to gear really picking up," said Frederic Neumann, co-head of Asian economics at HSBC in Hong Kong. "This rebound is led by the region's giants: China, India, and Japan."

Early Thursday the Tokyo Stock Exchange suspended trading in 249 securities, including Sony Corp., and Hitachi Ltd., due to a glitch in its electronic trading system. Trading in the suspended securities resumed near midday.

In currencies, the euro rose to $1.3161 from $1.3168 late Wednesday in New York. The dollar was little changed at 76.14 yen.

AP

Moody's sees negative ratings trend for Asian companies

SINGAPORE—Defaults by Asian companies are likely to rise this year as the economic environment deteriorates and credit becomes tighter with European lenders reducing their exposure to the region, ratings agency Moody's Investors Service said on Thursday.

"Asian sectors most vulnerable to adverse policy tightening, rerfinancing and excess capacity include Chinese property developers, as well as the refining and marketing, technology and semiconductor sectors," Moody's said in a report.

Moody's said it expects a negative ratings trend for Asian companies, indicating there will likely be more ratings downgrades than upgrades this year. Actual economic growth has decreased in recent months, hurt by problems in Europe.

On Wednesday, Kiosk Korea posted a shock 6.6 percent annual drop in exports in January and said new export orders fell for a ninth consecutive month. Hong Kong also warned the economy faced a grim year.

Moody's said the lack of investor appetite for high-yield bonds will restrain prospects for Asian corporate issuers, and it expects defaults in Asia to rise moderately in line with the global trend.

But while weaker firms will face difficulty in raising or rolling over debt, most Asian corporate issuers will find 2012 and 2013 to be manageable. "About 90 percent of total refinancing among both domestic and cross-border issuance stands with investment-grade corporate issuers, of which 77 percent are domestic bonds issued by blue-chip firms, well-organized local banks, or quasi-sovereign entities," Moody's said.

"The likelihood of a credit crunch in Asia is low, thanks to strong finances in most Asian governments and generally healthy, well-capitalized banking systems," it added, based on the assumption there will not be a full-blown European sovereign and financial crisis. Nevertheless, the availability of credit in Asia will remain tight amid heightened risk aversion.

Reuters

GERMANY'S Chancellor Angela Merkel gives a speech at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing. Merkel said the euro had "made Europe stronger," as she sought to reassure Beijing that the world's No 2 bloc is under control on the start of a three-day visit to China.

Sony posts $1.2-B loss in Q4

TOKYO—Sony Corp fell into a ¥1.7 billion yen ($1.2 billion) operating loss in October-December, a disappointing result for the usually lucrative quarter that was worse than analysts' estimates as it battled a strong yen, Thai floods and a dull economy.

The company also forecast a full-year operating loss, hobbled by chronic losses in its TV operations despite restructuring efforts as it struggles to compete with aggressive South Korean rivals such as Samsung Electronics.

Sony's operating loss for its third quarter compared with an 8.8 billion yen average profit forecast of six analysts polled by Thomson Reuters.

For the full year to March, the company forecast an operating loss of 95 billion yen, compared with the analyst consensus forecast of an 8.2 billion yen profit.

Sony announced on Wednesday that Vice President Kazuo Hirai, the designated heir apparent to CEO Howard Stringer, will become president and CEO on April 1 in a long-awaited management succession.

Several Japanese technology companies, including Hitachi and Sharp Corp, have already announced massive multi-billion yen earnings reports with worse-than-expected earnings forecasts for the full financial years.

Panasonic Corp. also saddled with its selling TV business and hit by the strong yen, will report its earnings on Friday.

The earnings announcements came after the end of trade on Thursday. Sony's shares have lost more than half their value over the past year, compared with a 15 percent drop in Tokyo's benchmark Nikkei average.

Reuters

Australia ideal home for expats, survey says

SYDNEY—Australia beat out the United States and Singapore to take top place among expatriates as an ideal combination for quality of life and career prospects, according to an international survey released on Thursday.

More than 2,000 expatriates in over 100 countries rated nations on a range of criteria, from accommodation to food, healthcare and the quality of the commute to work, according to HSBC's Expat Explorer survey now in its fourth year. Australia took the honors with 38 percent of respondents choosing the nation known for its sun-drenched beaches and relaxed outdoors as their preferred new posting location. "The report suggests expats are putting lifestyle and well-being ahead of money and Australia ticks all the boxes on this front," said Graham Hands, head of retail banking and wealth management for HSBC Bank Australia.

The United States, which had slightly fewer votes than Australia, came in an extremely close second and was seen as offering the best career opportunities and higher remuneration, the report said.

Singapore narrowly edged for third with 9 percent, appealed to outdoor the best of both worlds, with respondents noting its good quality of life along with prime job opportunities.

Hong Kong came in fourth, Canada fifth, the United Kingdom sixth and France seventh. Respondents said they were attracted to the higher salaries in Hong Kong and the United Kingdom, while Canada's lifestyle won it points.

Reuters

Japan officials ask BOJ to ease; yen in danger zone

TOKYO/TAMAHIKU, Japan—Japan's finance and economic ministers piled pressure on the Bank of Japan on Thursday to consider easing policy further, as the new climate bank in Seoul that led to Tokyo to intervene heavily in currency markets last year to protect its export-reliant economy.

BOJ Deputy Governor Hiroshi Yamaguchi said he saw no need to ease policy right away, but the central bank could face pressure through any prolonged slump, even though it has limited options remaining to support the faltering economy.

"The yen's rise is overvalued, led by short-term and speculative moves as the lack of opportunities for low interest rates in the US until 2014," Finance Minister Jun Azumi told lawmakers. "I would like the BOJ to take account of economic conditions and various factors in deciding policy, including quantitative easing."

Economy Minister Motohisa Furukawa also called on the central bank to ensure that real interest rates remain low, as the Federal Reserve's commitment to keep its nominal benchmark rate near zero for nearly three more years pushed the dollar lower against the yen.

Under the BOJ's initial round of quantitative easing, a technique it pioneered, it flooded the financial system with cash from 2001 to 2006 by targeting the size of current account deposits that commercial banks park at the central bank.

Since the US subprime mortgage crisis, economists have used the term more loosely to describe central bank purchases of government bonds and other assets to lower interest rates and expand balance sheets.

The dollar traded around 76.17 yen on Thursday having slid to 76.08 the day before. That was set for off a record low of 75.32 (finalized on Oct. 31, when Japan intervened heavily to curb the yen's strength.

The BOJ, like the Fed and the Bank of England, has turned to the broader form of quantitative easing since the subprime-mortgage crisis battered government bonds and other riskier assets such as exchange-traded funds.

The BOJ says the size of its balance sheet, when compared to Japan's gross domestic product, shows its policy is accommodative.

The central bank's detractors argue that traders are not focusing on the ratio of The BOJ's balance sheet to GDP and that the rate of expansion of other central banks' balance sheets shows the BOJ is not keeping up pace with them in each areas of easing monetary policy and supporting the balance sheet.

"I don't know what the finance minister meant by calling for quantitative easing, but policymakers want the BOJ to lower real interest rates to weaken the yen," said Naoki Kuroguchi, a senior fixed-income strategist at Mitsubishi UFJ Morgan Stanley Securities.

Reuters

Talk of Japan Inc.'s demise may be premature

TOKYO—Japan's push-driven corporate sector looks to be out for the count, but Japan Inc. have knocked off to last by a strong yen just as it was staging a wobbly recovery from natural disaster.

But opportunities can be deceiving.

Early earnings results for the fourth quarter of October-December, which ended on Dec. 31,

GSIS in talks to set up $750-M infrastructure fund

Sagip Saka to increase incomes

By Brenda M. Corbito

SAGIP Saka, launched by Sen. Francis Pangilinan with full support from Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala is a breakthrough for farmers. In fact, it is the second breakthrough. The first occurred almost a year ago with the Agriculture and Fisheries 2020 [AF 2020] Conference held on 9-10, 2011. It was also spearheaded by Pangilinan in partnership with Alcala, Representative Hilah Mendoza, and farmer and fisherfolk organizations.

For the first time, AF 2020 united the legislature (Senate and House of Representatives), the executive branch (Department of Agriculture), and the private sector (primarily Alyansa Agribuhayan for farmers and fisherfolk, and Philippine Chamber of Agriculture and Food for agribusiness).

Together, they crafted an agricultural development vision for 2020, supplemented with short and long-term policies and programs. Since then, AF 2020 has been working through six clusters, with each concentrating on implementation issues for the last twelve months.

However, something was missing. "There was a lack of identified capital" to models where these policies and programs could be showcased, Sister Sagip Saka.

Increasing incomes

A day before the Sagip Saka launch, during the Anagkadto Philippines Conference sponsored by the Joint Foreign Chambers, President Noynoy Aquino identified three sectors that would propel the government's inclusive growth strategy: infrastructure, agriculture and tourism.

COMMENTARY

During the open forum, an Alyansa Agribuhayan leader suggested that agriculture, because of its size and potential, could be the most significant force for inclusive growth. He then asked what were the ways the government would have in this sector. President Aquino responded that it would be focusing on increasing farmer and fisherfolk incomes.

"This is a welcome development. In the past, emphasis was given to production increases. Rarely has there been a measure or mention of how much farmer incomes have increased, if they increased at all.

Increasing farmer incomes is precisely Sagip Saka's thrust, Pangilinan said. "We want to focus on improving the quality of life of our farmers and fisherfolk, and in so doing, building sustainable farming communities noticeable as a reason to achieve food security." Consistent with the AF 2020 vision, he continued: Only through strong public-private partnership can we achieve this."

Five pillars

The pillars which will implement Sagip Saka in 26 communities throughout the country are: (1) farmer and fisherfolk organizations, (2) the Department of Agriculture, (3) LGUs and state-/basic centers, (4) business, and (5) civil society. These will synergize their efforts in Sagip Saka areas' interventions. "These will be individually designed for each community's unique needs: (1) access to investment and credit, (2) access to market, (3) infrastructure, (4) ensuring quality and convenience of supply, (5) research and development, (6) adaptation to climate change, and (7) strengthening farmer communities and cooperatives.

One of the cooperatives is the Panaon Familiar Multipurpose Cooperative, which is affiliated with Pakisama and Alyansa Agribuhayan.

Having seen land ownership reform, the families in Panaon now face the challenging task of increasing incomes. The failure of much land reform is that land is given to the farmers without the necessary support services. The result is a decrease, rather than an increase in farmer incomes.

Realizing that the 2012 proposed P400 million budget for agrarian land reform support services was turned down by Congress, we recommend that the Sagip Saka reformulate be implemented specifically in agrarian reform communities.

Conclusion

Sagip Saka will initially be implemented in 26 communities with a P120 million start-up fund. But its significance is not in its projects, but in its potential of being scaled sizeable for others to follow. The new AF 2020 paradigm of public-private partnership formed on increasing incomes and food security should be implemented with the Sagip Saka experience.

Successes such as the redesigned Agriculture Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (ACEF), which now has a P1.3 billion balance, should be channeled to accountable and credible projects with Sagip Saka communities. It is this kind of breakthrough that will propel our country to true agricultural development and inclusive growth.

(The author is chair of Agritech, former secretary for presidential flagship programs and projects, and former undersecretary for agriculture and trade and industry. For inquiries and suggestions, e-mail agriwatch.phil@yahoo.com or mobile 0920.8021113)

Pension fund eyes launch by mid-2012

By Gaviel W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT Service Insurance System (GSIS) is in talks with multilateral institutions on a planned infrastructure fund of up to $750 million, which would serve as a vehicle for investing in infrastructure projects.

Robert G. Vergara, GSIS president and general manager, said in a briefing yesterday that the pension fund also gained a net income of P17.3 billion in 2011 or an increase of 21 percent from P46 billion the previous year.

Regarding the planned infrastructure fund, Vergara said the GSIS was exploring possibilities of a co-up with two multilaterals already, although others may follow in signifying their interest.

"GSIS is committed to go ahead [and] we are looking at a launch by mid-year," he said.

Vergara added the planned fund would be in the range of $500 million to $750 million and that the GSIS has earmarked $300 million for it.

The GSIS explained that the kitty would be poured into public-private partnerships on infrastructure projects, which are expected to take off this year following initial successes in late 2011.

The National Economic and Development Authority has identified for bidding projects worth at least P170 billion.

These include the P50 billion ARC/LRT-1 extension project; P13.3 billion MRT Line 2 extension; P7.64 billion new Bohol airport; P36-billion Pacific Princess airport; P25 billion NLEX-SLEX link expressway; P9.63 billion Cavite-Laguna expressway Muntinlupa section; and the P3.68 billion Davao International Airport.

Also in the list are the development of six terminals for Clarkdale Municipal International Airport, privatization of Legazpi-Sagpon Airport operation and maintenance, and the supply of treated bulk water for Metro Manila, but work for these are yet to be finalized.

Vergara said the proposed fund is different from the previously announced plan for the GSIS to contribute P68 billion to a P200-billion infrastructure fund where some government financial and social institutions.

"We are currently screening possible candidates for the selection of a fund manager," he added.

Financing for Runruno mining project firming up

By Rica T. Cichocinta

SEMIRA Exploration Plc is in the thick of negotiations with banks and financial institutions as part of its campaign to bring the Runruno gold-molybdenum project in Nueva Vizcaya to production.

The Australian firm said in its quarterly progress update posted on its website that it is currently engaged in "detailed discussions" with various banks and alternative funding sources to finalize a debt funding package once "project finance basis."

"The company has progressed to detailed discussions with one of these potential funders and it is being assisted in all of these endeavors by an experienced advisor," according to the project update.

Mineski Exploration said it intends to finalize a package in the first quarter of 2012.

In the meantime, early mine site works and preparations for building a processing plant have been ongoing since December 2011. Full construction will start as soon as Mineski Exploration secures project financing.

"It has been a very rewarding and significant quarter with the issue of the DMPF (Declaration of mining project feasibility), approval of a package of early site works and indeed the initiation of those works with the commencement of earthworks on the processing plant site. To see the daily changes at site as the work proceeds—fantastic for the vitality of [the Runruno project]," Mineski Exploration executive chair Ian Helzberger said in a statement.

Runruno, which covers a 3,001-hectare site, is set to start commercial production in the second half of 2013.

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February 4, 2012, Saturday
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Silver Jubilarians Class of 1987 (25 years) • Pearl Jubilarians Class of 1982 (30 years)
Ruby Jubilarians Class of 1972 (40 years) • Golden Jubilarians Class of 1962 (50 years)
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• 6:00PM Homecoming Program
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Designed to accommodate tomorrow's technology, Arya Residences will employ a fiber optic backbone to allow fast, seamless, and reliable entertainment and communication options for its residents' convenience. These services managed by IP Converge and designed in collaboration with Cisco will allow broader bandwidth for telephone, cable TV and internet connection.

IP Converge is a information technology & telecommunications company providing local and regional enterprises with different managed data services and cloud-based business solutions at international standards. Meanwhile, Cisco is a world leader in providing consumer electronics, networking, voice, and communications technology and services. Cisco produces and sells Linksys equipment, a well-known brand of home and small office networking products.

Arya's triple play technology also allows flexibility and cost efficiency. Residents will have the option to choose the most suitable bandwidth for internet for seamless connectivity and flexible usage options. High fidelity video conferencing with crisp sound and video quality is assured. Service interruption will be a thing of the past as the same kind of technology used by major BPOs will be employed to keep your homes connected all the time.

The technological platform will let you work from home to help you cut unnecessary travel time and avoid wasteful fuel consumption. Efficiently, this allows you to reduce overhead cost while minimizing your carbon footprint.

Your entertainment and traditional communication options are also broadened by this advanced technology. You will then enjoy crystal, high definition television viewing experience. You pick your own choice of channels and this those that you do not necessarily need. Seamless telephony is provided without interrupting your internet usage and TV viewing time.

All these in just one combo - no need to talk to multiple providers, no confusing bills, just reliable customer service, and zero dig once. And with IP Converge's multi loaning system, residents will enjoy lower than-market rate fees.

"It's like we're integrating an information superhighway into the building - reliable connection for data, voice, and video streaming at breakneck speed! This communication platform is designed for the fast paced technological advances of the future -factors that are critical to your business success" says Angie de Villa-Lacson, ArthaLand's president and CEO. "This will elevate our residents's way of enjoying the benefits of technology from real time business monitoring and management to high definition video streaming, high fidelity telephony, as well as personalized entertainment options," Angie further explains.

"At this end of the day, all these technological features that we equip your home with translate to your Total Living Experience - whether for business or for pleasure. To us, luxury is very personal. This is why we give you the freedom to choose whatever suits you in terms of your business connectivity and entertainment needs. This is what future proof by design means," Angie concludes.

To experience a future ready home, visit the Arya Residences Model Units at the ArthaLand Sales Pavilion, McKinley Parkway cor. 7th Ave., BGC. To get there from EDSA/Ayala Ave. take McKinley Road towards BGC. From C5/ Pioneer Street, take the Kalayaan Flyover to the 32nd St., BGC then turn right at 7th Ave., towards McKinley Parkway. Call 836-ALCO (2526).

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BPI Globe BanKO A Savings Bank

Finance sector's assets surged to $3.8T in '11

BSP cites fund managers' prudent strategies in dealing with crisis

TEODORICO

By Michelle V. Remo

ASSETS BEING managed by the country's financial sector surged to $3.8 trillion by the end of 2011.

Regulators said this was due to rising incomes seen throughout the country.

Using industry data, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported that the latest amount of assets under management was almost three times more than the P1.27 trillion registered by the end of 2006.

The central bank said the rise in assets being managed by banks and other institutions in the country over the three-year period indicated growth in the country's liquidity, even during a period of financial turmoil, which peaked in 2008, when several advanced economies underwent a recession.

The latest amount of assets under management was also up by 40 percent from the P2.7 trillion reported at the end of September 2011.

In a speech delivered recently during an event attended by members of the Fund Managers Association of the Philippines (FMAP), BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the growth in assets suggested that banks and other financial institutions had undertaken prudent strategies.

Nevertheless, Tetangco said the industry must continue to be cautious of risks, citing challenges stemming from the prolonged debt crisis in Europe.

The crisis, which has dampened appetite of foreign fund owners worldwide, has the potential of causing "de-leveraging"—the act of liquidating assets—as more investors decide to hold on to their cash, he said.

This will only adversely affect emerging markets like the Philippines, he added.

Tetangco said market volatilities that could result from the problems in Europe should keep fund managers in the Philippines always on guard.

He said investment decisions should be prudent to protect investors.

"With increased mobility of capital across global financial centers, the domestic financial market has become more vulnerable to external developments," the central bank chief said in a speech delivered during an assembly of members of the Fund Managers Association of the Philippines held the other day.

"The uncertainties across the globe have become more easily translated into volatilities in the domestic financial markets, complicating both how you manage funds and how we manage policy," Tetangco also said.

He said the declining investor rates in the country could result in lower margins for fund managers. He warned the industry against the tendency to purchase riskier assets just to maintain their earnings.

He also reminded industry players to maintain prudence, and to strike a balance between the desire for high returns and the need to stay protected against too much risk.

GSIS members get year's reprieve

By Konrad W. Dominguez

SOME 14,000 members of the Government Service Insurance System who were affected by Tropical Storm "Sendong" could not pay still this year any of the loans that they took out from the pension fund.

GSIS president and general manager Robert C. Vergara said in a briefing yesterday that the agency's board approved in January an "extended moratorium" on loan payments in addition to providing emergency loans to the victims.

"This is a complete moratorium and it would allow GSIS members to use their cash flows for more urgent needs such as repairing their damaged homes," Vergara said.

He said the program covers members who reside or work in the provinces of Misamis Oriental, Negros Oriental, Bukidnon, and Lanao del Sur—areas that suffered the brunt of "Sendong."

Interest payments and penalties on outstanding loans for qualified members, including pensioners, are suspended.

Loans covered included housing loans, consolidated loans, eCash advances as well as the emergency loans granted because of "Sendong."

However, pension loans as well as due and demandable accounts as of the end of 2011 are not covered.

Vergara said that for a member to qualify for the program, he or she should not have any missed monthly payment for more than six months as of Dec. 31, 2011.

He added that the moratorium would be implemented in two phases. In the first phase, loan payments due in the first quarter of 2012 are automatically deferred.

"This means that members in the provinces listed need not file an application to qualify for the first phase," Vergara said.

The second phase, which covers the remaining nine months of this year, applies only to members, pensioners and retirees who lost a family member or whose residence and property sustained damages or who lost their source of income as a result of "Sendong."

Members have until Feb. 29 to apply for the moratorium benefits.

Earlier, the GSIS said it released at least P626.1 million in emergency loans to some 32,000 members who were severely affected by "Sendong." Coverage of the emergency loan program included a wider area and more provinces compared to that of the recent storm victims.

Fed move seen to pressure peso

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas will likely intervene more to cap the local currency's appreciation against the US dollar as cash flows to emerging markets may intensify with the US Federal Reserve's vow to keep interest rates at near-zero levels, global banking giant Citigroup said.

In a commentary dated Jan. 31, Citi Asia-Pacific economist Johanna Chua said the central banks of the Philippines and Taiwan would have room to cut key interest rates "given still positive real rates, muted inflation risks, and a desire to dissuade FX (foreign exchange) appreciation."

The BSP, for its part, is expected to slash its key reserve rates by another 25 basis points within the year, after an initial 25-bp cut in January.

The US Fed turned more "dovish" than expected by the markets when it stated that interests rates would stay low until at least late 2014, smashing the projected timeframe from an earlier pronouncement of mid-2013.

Asia's initial policy response is to intervene, even verbosely, foreign exchange appreciation especially in the case of India.

But Chua noted that foreign exchange interventions could seen re-emerge for some market players as growth concerns.

"We think external competitiveness considerations will likely be the bigger factor weighing on FX intervention motives than the desire for precautionary reserve accumulation. Looking at various indicators, we think Taiwan, the Philippines, Korea, and possibly Malaysia, have the stronger incentive to intervene earlier relative to others," she said.

In the case of the Philippines, underperforming exports were cited as a potential trigger for the BSP to cap local currency appreciation.

People, Events & Products

E-mail: [illegible] Supplements Head Jong Amores

Globe strengthens environmental advocacy through WWF-Philippines partnership

GLOBE Telecom further strengthens its environmental advocacy through a partnership with World Wildlife Fund - Philippines, starting with a donation of P1 million to WWF's Philippine Fund for Nature and a possible collaboration on eco-tourism using Globe GCASH.

Philippine Fund for Nature is designed to ensure long term growth of the WWF-Philippines' wide range of projects directed towards preserving the country's natural resources. WWF-Philippines aims to establish a special endowment fund of P200 million for PFN.

"The major gift will not only help secure the financial sustainability of the organization but will also enable us to sustain in the long run our key projects which help conserve our biodiversity and help mitigate the impact of human footprint on the environment. More importantly, it will help ensure that future generations will enjoy a living planet," said Yvonne S. Dewe, WWF-Philippine chair in his letter to Globe president and CEO Ernest L. Cu.

The financial support is just the beginning of a partnership between Globe and WWF-Philippines. Aside from the P1 million donation, Globe through its Corporate Social Responsibility arm Globe Bridging Communities (BridgeComm) is closely working with WWF in developing GCASH (Globe Telecom's GCASH for customers), a program that will harness the use of GCASH electronic cash transfer service for the promotion and facilitation of ecotourism-related customer spending in key local conservation areas and nearby cities.

"Globe is fully aware that the effects of climate change can impact our network directly as its implications to society and to the operations and growth of businesses can hit more than ever. This is why we continue to work hand-in-hand with various environmental organizations like WWF-Philippines in ensuring that we are able to preserve our biodiversity. At the same time, we would like to tap our core services such as GCASH to directly help the community and environment conservation efforts around the Philippines," said Bob U. Tiausi, head of Globe CSR.

GCASH Ecotourism will be a valuable service in pristine but remote sites since it allows travelers to purchase goods and services as well as withdraw funds from participating GCASH outlets in the local communities where there are no Automated Teller Machines or credit card facilities.

According to WWF's latest Living Planet Report, global biodiversity dropped 30 percent from 1970 to 2007 while global carbon footprint increased by over 50 percent since 1966. In the latest United Nations' World Risk Index, the Philippines ranked third among the most disaster-vulnerable countries worldwide behind Tonga and Vanuatu.

GLOBE Corporate Social Responsibility head Atty. Regan Hechanova receives the certificate of donation from WWF-Philippines chair Yvonne S. Perez (left) and WWF-Philippines vice chair and president Jose Ma. Lorenzo P. Yap.

PAS INDUCTS 54TH YEAR OFFICERS

THE PHILIPPINE Association of Secretaries and Administrative Professionals Inc. (PAS) recently held their induction ceremony at the Manila Hotel Grand Ballroom with 2013 Executives of the Year, Gerardo Santiestevan of GSD as inducting officer. In photo are the newly elected Board of Directors, from left, Linda Perez, assistant treasurer; Nora Ibanez, PRO; Lolita Cleto, auditor; Rose Ramirez, treasurer; Nancy Dumlao-Sonio, Anna Quevedo, president; Annie Trinidad, secretary; Luz de Jesus, VP-external; John Palmopan, assistant secretary and Sally Magalong, VP-internal.

SuperStar Virgo returns after $25M makeover

SUPERSTAR Virgo is all pressed and geared up to make passengers' cruise holidays an unforgettable delight. Her gangways are open to welcome a new generation of passengers at its bar recently decked with minimalist interiors.

PASSENGERS of Star Cruises have many reasons to celebrate the return of SuperStar Virgo after her recently-finished $25-million renovation.

For 12 years, the grand lady SuperStar Virgo has been creating indelible holiday memories for hundreds of thousands of passengers from around the world. They invariably fell in love with the vessel, be it the fun, the food, the cabins, the service, the entertainment, the onboard activities or mostly the whole experience.

Since the grand lady has come out of the gates seen, all ready for her outside world. During her short sojourn, she has perfected a few tricks up her shower that promise to surprise all. Passengers will be glad to learn that she has cooked up new recipes and raised heavenly drinks. She has put together world-class entertainment. She has finished the Deal touches on a new range of recreation and sports activities, and more.

Gastronomic blow-outs on SuperStar Virgo draw passengers to the vessel. Under the stewardship of renowned executive chef Reinhard Hammer, onboard restaurants are enticing up surprise after surprise. The Blue Lagoon restaurant, famous for its signature Southeast Asian cuisine, pampers passengers' palettes.

The Chinese restaurant Pavilion brings up-market dining to a new level with tailor-made menus for passengers in its new Taipan VIP room. For multi-award patronat, Silhouette, the vessel's signature restaurant, is the right ticket.

After a sumptuous meal, guests can choose from among the internationally-decorated Six Corner to Bellini, the vessel's hip club spot Celebrity, the new Cigar Lounge at Bellini.

Above business is never cause dazzle on SuperStar Virgo. Passengers will be captivated by five new shows from Asian and international talents like Elaiza master of international sedans Charles Bach and Filipino sweetheart Nadia. Sandy Tang, Malaysia's charming prince of Broadway classic and jazz, and Johnny "Elvis" Thompson, one of the best Elvis impersonators, wrap up the new line-up.

While SuperStar Virgo has undergone an inside-and-out refurbishment, her 1,100 strong international crew also refreshed their service skills, revamping to excite themselves. The crew is also donning newly-designed uniforms to greet passengers with a clash of hours-morning smile.

Special Assembly of Jehovah's Witnesses tomorrow in Brgy. Kaligayahan, Quezon City

IT IS important to understand the answer to the special assembly's theme: "God's Will Be Done". It would be impossible to fulfill the purpose of our existence without learning and doing the will of God. Why? We were created because of Jehovah's will. - Apoc. 4:11. The Special Assembly will be held tomorrow (Saturday, Feb. 2) at the Assembly Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, Brgy. Kaligayahan, Quezon City. The program will start at 8:10 a.m. and will end at 3:25 p.m. The topics to be presented will help guests to understand according to the third main requirement mentioned in the model prayer, "God's Will Be Done" - Matto 6:9, 10. The questions to be answered during the program are as follows: What is an important joy bearing God's Word? How can we go on perceiving what God's will is for us? How can we find a rich, satisfying life? Young ones, what do you need to prove to Jehovah? What rewards come from doing God's will? Everyone is cordially invited to attend the assembly. The program is open to the public and no charge is required since the expenses for the assembly are defrayed through voluntary donation.

Saving lives through blood drive with Passover Love

THOSE days when sickness is so common and diseases are spreading, the need for help rises especially for those who are dying due to shortage of blood. In the US, more than 38,000 blood donations are needed everyday. In the world, more than 1 million people are diagnosed with cancer each year. In the Philippines, about one in every seven people entering the hospital needs blood. Despite this need of blood in the Philippines, studies say that not many Filipinos realize the importance of blood donation. The number of the population who are needing of blood and the number of people donating blood in the Philippines are dramatically opposite to ratio. The Whole Wisdom Society Church of God is on the forefront in responding to this need and plans to educate the Filipinos at the same time with the importance of blood donation as they staged an expose-barbecued donation campaign, gathering over 600 members in metro Manilacus donors. This historical event was held last Jan. 20 at the Quezon City Hall. The blood campaign entitled, "I Have Already Come" was held to show the society that the Second Coming Christ had already come to save mankind with the blood of the Passover. It is to make the Filipinos aware of the importance of blood donation in accordance with the teachings of God. The blood drive is in cooperation with the Philippine Red Cross, St. Luke's Hospital and Mercury Drug who all share in the same purpose of saving lives.

UP College of Dentistry to mark 97th year Feb. 6-10

THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines College of Dentistry (UPCD), the only government-owned dental school in the country, will celebrate its 97th anniversary with week-long activities from Feb. 6-10. According to event organizers, UPCD led by dean Bonnie D. Medina III, the UP Dental Alumni Association led by its president, Dr. Arnold L. Rivera and its incoming president, Dr. Jennifer G. Segura and Batch '87 represented by Drs. Marivic Reyes, Jake Lacerta and Noel Gallardo on the celebration, with its theme: "Patungo sa Ganap na Lakas ng Kalusugan," will be ushered in by a one-day scientific session, "Maximizing Soft and Hard Tissue Management in Patient-Centered Approach for Maximum Gains," at the Manila Peninsula Hotel (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) featuring world dental experts professor Fridus van der Weijden from Amsterdam, Ian Meyers from Australia and Dr. Regina Santos Mendes from the Philippines. It will also be highlighted by Research Methodology and Research Design Workshop, Feb. 8 (8 a.m. to 4 p.m., open only to faculty members and graduate students of all dental schools and is limited to 30 participants) to be conducted at the UP College of Dentistry, Pedro Gil, Manila and guest gathering of the alumni, faculty members, staff and students at the UPCD ranch and be graced by Batangas Gov. Vilma Santos-Recto as guest of honor and keynote speaker, Feb. 10, 3 to 10 p.m., UP Balara Filipiniana, UPCD, Diliman, Quezon City. For inquiries, contact Dr. Annie Segura at (02)7-4309-887 or (02)-8825548 or Dr. Cindy Lyceria at (02)-8-9286041 and Dr. Arnold Rivera at (02)7-89-99-(11).

St. Scholastica's annual alumni homecoming set Feb. 12

HOSTED by Silver Jubilarians High School Batch '87, this year's celebrations will carry the theme "Walang Kapos", or a tribute to beauty, friendship, family, love, dreams, and the environment - in an exciting day of fun-filled activities highlighted by a musical program to be participated in by this year's celebrating batches, namely: the Golden Jubilarians HS '62, Coral Jubilarians HS '62, Pearl Jubilarians HS '77, Diamond Jubilarians HS '52, Platinum Jubilarians HS '47, Sapphire Jubilarians College '87 and HS '87, Emerald Jubilarians HS '57, and Ruby Jubilarians College '72 and HS '72. This year's program will also showcase many surprises and many "firsts" in the history of SSS Manila's homecoming celebrations. The event is being held in partnership with FILA, Casa Ibarra, Travel Consultants, PCBC, Generika and PCIBC Savings Bank. For more information, please contact the St. Scholastica's College Alumni Association (SSAA) at 524-1100 or 567-1588 local 555 or visit www.ssc.edu.ph.

DOT, DUTY FREE UNVEIL NAIA SIGNAGE

THE DEPARTMENT of Tourism (DOT) and Duty Free Philippines (DFP) recently unveiled a big and eye-welcoming signage for Philippines and visitors flying in and out of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA). The banner, visible from the NAIA expressway, bears the new tourism campaign slogan "It's more fun in the Philippines" to directly relay the country's message that all visitors are welcome and that we are ready to give them an enjoyable stay in the Philippines. DFP also marked arriving travelers to shop for their pasalubong at the country's premier travel retailer.

Insular Life launches US dollar denominated product

INSULAR Life welcomes the year of the Water Dragon with its latest US Dollar-Denominated product, Dollar Variable Return to Asset (Dollar VRA).

Dollar VRA is a single premium investment-linked life insurance product that can optimize one's dollar returns. With no initial charges, the funds can grow in its full potential from the onset.

The investment has two dollar denominated fixed income instruments issued by the Philippine government and prime corporations through the Dollar Fixed Income Fund. Here years ago, returns have been recorded at approximately 23 percent, earning for the investors roughly 6.16 percent p.a.

"We are giving the market an alternative vehicle to put their dollar assets in, a vehicle that can potentially earn for them better yields than what their dollars may be currently experiencing," says Insular Life board chair and CEO Vicente Ayllon.

The investment also provides life insurance protection equal to the investors death benefit or the fund value, whichever is higher. Protection from the risk of economic loss is a benefit no other investment vehicle can give.

Dollar VRA is available for a minimum single premium of US$10,000 and shall be issued on a Guaranteed Issue Offer basis, subject to company limits. The policyholder has the freedom to grow his investment through a minimum of US$5,000 top-ups.

For more information, call 982-8818 local 31-23 to 31-24 or e-mail us inquiry@insular.com.ph.

PTAR SEALS CITIBANK AS OFFICIAL CREDIT CARD PARTNER OF 19TH TRAVEL TOUR EXPO 2013

PHILIPPINE Travel Agencies Association (PTAR) made the deal with Citibank as Platinum Sponsor and Official Credit Card Partner of the last approaching 19th Travel Tour Expo 2013 on Feb. 11 to 13 at the SMX Convention Center Halls 1, 2, 3 and 4 in Pasay City. Formalizing the agreement were (from left) PTAR president and 19th Travel Tour Expo 2013 (19) (2013) co-chair person Arlene Cervantes, YTB 2nd Token John Paul Catalan, Citibank vice president for retail marketing lead Amor Crombie and Citibank vice president for retail marketing Rashmin Benavides. For more information on the 19th Travel Tour Expo 2013, please call, Aimi & Mars (event manager) at 8843-1526/1527/1528/1529 or PTAR Secretariat at 562-8529 to 35.

PSALM needs ₱10.6B worth of fuel for 7 plants

By Amy R. Remo

State agency to bid out contracts for supply, delivery of oil

SHELDUN Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. is seeking offers for the supply and delivery of P10.6 billion worth of industrial fuel oil to serve the requirements of seven power plants in Visayas and Mindanao this year.

The seven power plants will need an estimated 266,700 kiloliters of fuel to operate efficiently, PSALM said in a statement yesterday.

The facilities in need of fuel are Power Barges 101, 102, 103 and 104; the 140-megawatt Naga power plant complex in Cebu; the 100-MW diesel facility of Western Mindanao Power Corp. (WMPC) in Isabela; Zamboanga; and the 55-MW bunker-fired power station of Southern Philippines Power Corp. (SPPC) in Malaybalay, Bukidnon.

According to the state agency, WMPC will require the most amount of fuel, or 183,500 kiloliters worth P3.07 billion.

The Naga complex will need 92,390 kiloliters (worth P1.54 billion); SPPC, 55,400 kiloliters (P2.03 billion); Power Barge 104, 10,200 kiloliters (P232 million); Power Barge 103, 6,800 kiloliters (P249 million); Power Barge 101, 5,900 kiloliters (P227 million); and Power Barge 102, 3,910 kiloliters (P226 million).

A pre-bidding conference will be held on Feb. 7. All bids should be submitted to PSALM by Feb. 21. Bidders will have the option to supply fuel to any or all plants. Evaluation of bids and award of contract will be undertaken on a per plant basis, PSALM added.

The state agency now manages and conducts bidding processes for the procurement of fuel, having taken over this function from another state agency, National Power Corp.

The government has yet to grant independent power producers administrative contracts for the seven facilities.

The sale of Power Barges 101, 102, 103 and 104 is already under way. The government has set the auction date on April 13.

Later, PSALM will announce details of the sale of the remaining power plants.

Gov't urges SLEx operator to build Calamba access road

By Paolo D. Montecillo

A NOP bypass road linking the heart of Laguna province to the South Luzon Expressway may rise soon, paving the way for the latter economic development of areas south of Metro Manila.

The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) said it had asked the South Luzon Tollways Corp. (SLTC), now controlled by Ayala Corp., to consider building a direct access road to the center of Calamba.

The Laguna province capital is the proposed location of a "regional government center" that will serve as a one-stop shop for state services for the entire Calabarzon (Cavite-Laguna-Batangas-Rizal-Quezon) area.

"The Toll Regulatory Board (TRB), an attached agency of the DOTC, met recently with government officials of Region IV-A to discuss details of the access road request," the DOTC said in a statement.

TRB executive director Edmund Reyes Jr. met with Mayor Joaquin "Bi" Chipeco Jr. of Calamba City and former Laguna Governor Joey Lina—both prime movers of the proposed RSC for Calabarzon—to discuss the possibility of an access road from SLEX to the city center.

Isaac Farol, president of the South Luzon Tollways Corp. (SLTC), also attended the meeting and expressed his support for the request.

"The TRB would like to have (y) DOTC's matters of providing Filipino travellers a safe, convenient and affordable travel destination experience," Reyes said in a statement. "The TRB will (a) expedite the review and evaluation of the given access request, and endorse it to the TRB Board of Directors for approval."

The government center in Calamba will house the offices of several key agencies where residents of the area can gain access to public services all in one place.

The construction of the new road to the area would "significantly provide convenience to the people of the Calabarzon Region," the DOTC said.

From page B6-1

Fed move seen to pressure peso

But while slashing reserve ratio is another way to temper local currency appreciation, Ono thinks that most central banks in the region have limited room to cut rates much further, except India.

"Outside of India, real rates remain historically low and liquidity ample. Our monetary conditions measure will look historically accommodative. Potential impact of global liquidity on commodity prices likely leads Ono to err on the prudent side.... Moreover, fiscal policy will likely be the preferred counter-cyclical policy tool for many," she said.

If capital inflows persist strongly, India could cut by more than our 100-bps base case in 2012, given high real rates and inflation relief from FX stability. The Philippines and Taiwan are potential candidates too, she said.

PH to receive $50-M WB loan

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PHILIPPINES is set to receive $50 million worth of loan from the World Bank to fund various infrastructure initiatives throughout the country.

The multi-tranced loan proceeds may inked the financing agreement with state-owned Development Bank of the Philippines, which would facilitate the disbursement of the loan to the Department of Finance and various local government units.

In a statement, the World Bank said it hoped that the $50-million assistance, which would fund the regional infrastructure for Growth Project (RIGP), would allow PH. ipines to benefit from the country's economic gains.

"RIGP is a product of the continuing partnership between and among the World Bank, the Philippine government, and DBP in supporting local governments units as they fulfill and balance their mandate as local development managers and providers of basic services," said Mateo Bonelli, World Bank's country director for the Philippines.

In the same statement, Development Bank of the Philippines said the poorest of the country's provinces would be the first to receive the loan disbursements.

The money is going to be used to fund projects that are considered vital by local government officials.

"RIGP will finance a wide array of local public infrastructure and services that will promote physical and economic integration among local government units," said Francisco del Rosario Jr., Development Bank of the Philippines president.

RIGP projects are expected to complement previous and on-roll off projects that are meant to ease transportation, Del Rosario said.

According to the World Bank, projects that are likely to be financed by the loan include local roads, ports, and other transportation facilities.

It will also build off the existing

Narito ang ilan sa mga napiling texts sa LOVE IS IN THE AIR PROMO!

Hi Bes, para kang anniversary... Happy valentine's day pusa ka sa sobrang napiling me. Para sa akong mga heroes kahit nasa EU ako. From: Rhoda Bolivia – 09255225***

Mom and dad, your love has always shone my way and I'm thankful for the guidance you have given me everyday. I love you both. my valentine. From: Jes Ata of Las Piñas – 09175899***

Jun, love is a journey... We must have a stable mind and heart to reach 38 years of living together. Whatever stage we are in, I still love you since the day we first met! Happy Heart's Day my husband!! – From: Gemma Tejero of Cavite – 91661360***

Armand, you are the best part in my life. Thanks for making me complete. I love you, babe! – From: Lilibeth Saurce of Bacolor City – 91082***

Nanik, happy Valentine's Day. First of all, I want to say thank you for being a good wife to me. I feel your sincerity, loving and trust! From: Jenny Bacolo of Cabanatuan Nueva – 9286844***

Alex, remember when we fell in love, we were stupid... Thanks for growing better with me. I love you just our kids. Erica and Michael... From: Lorie Domingo of Caloocan – 9271638***

Type mo rin isang mag-send ng sweet messages for FREE!
I-text ang **ON** <space> **LBRE** <space> **LOVE** <space> **Name/Age/Gender/City/Valentine's message** at i-send sa **4467**

JOIN NOW & GET A CHANCE TO WIN:
- Free Ultra-light Plane ride for two (2) on Feb. 11, 2012 (Saturday) at Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga during the 17th Philippine International Hot Air Balloon Fiesta
- All expenses-paid overnight hotel accommodation and dinner for two (2)

17th hotair

PROMO REQUIREMENTS

1) Promo runs from Jan. 23-Feb. 6, 2012
2) Registration to this promo is ABSOLUTELY FREE, using the keywords ON LBRE LOVE automatically enrolls the sender in the INQUIRER LIBRE FREE TEXT ALERTS database and he / she will get free news and promo alerts via SMS.
3) THREE (3) winners will be randomly drawn on Feb. 7, 2012 and will be notified through SMS or phone call.
4) Inquirer reserves the right to choose and publish the best messages in Philippine Daily Inquirer, Bandera and Libre.

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Marketing Buzz

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Business Friday Editor Margie Quiroga-Rapisura

EFFECT of new technology

DIGITAL 3D

Glasses-free: Future of advertising

By Roger Pe
Lead Buzzer

WHAT were the greatest inventions to consumer electronics in the last 20 years?

The Internet, Facebook, Twitter, cell phones, iPads were just some of the life-changing gadgets and feats of media that had so much impact on our lives.

Blind Date's Ad Congress in Cebu Sun Digital 3D advertising was the most spellbinding technology presented by industry movers.

3-D Vision, a proudly Filipino-owned company, did the public in and those pesky 3D glasses made believers you won't be needing them anymore.

Yes, those nerve-locking eyeglasses for 3D viewing, like relief they're effective, are soon mostly over.

Sit back and relax in 3D Vision today you to the theater of advertising.

A bottle of beer rising from the fountain of sparkling bubbles. An cold and refreshing makes you want to have a sip.

A dolphin gracefully diving in the clear blue, mesmerizing, you want to take a dip.

A fantastic blow of color pouring out from a slot machine, smooth out both your hands, catch a handful : the 3D scene will make you want to play.

Unbelievable? Incredible. You've got to see it to believe it.

"The medium itself is so novel that 99.9 percent of the world's population have never seen such a screen, says Antonio Ruesga, President and CEO of 3D Vision.

Glasses-Free Digital 3D advertising is bound to outlast the novelty.

RAYPAPA Ruesga

since.

The arrival of glasses-free 3D in the Philippines certainly opens a whole new avenue for advertising industry, putting the country ahead of many first-world nations," Ruesga says.

The technology provides revolutionary solutions, breathtaking visuals and powerful messaging. The new technology gives advertisers a competitive edge in the market.

Business Friday interviewer Kristine Ruesga, your great grand niece of national hero Jose Rizal, to give Inquirer readers a more comprehensive knowledge of this new technology that is changing the country's digital indoor advertising landscape.

BF: What exactly is 3D and how does it work without the glasses?

Ruesga: 3D is anything with a 2D screen and how, usually popping out or stretching it from your face.

Ever since the '50's we've been viewing 3D using goofy glasses. Today, we cannot wait for the 3D gadgets to be released until the 3D technology advancements, it is possible to see 3D without the glasses.

This is possible simply by wrapping the glasses around the screen.

BF: There seems to be a resurgence of 3D everywhere, what has brought about this revival?

Ruesga: The trend is brought about by James Cameron's blockbuster film Avatar, since its release, 3D has suddenly become the hottest thing.

BF: Why choose 3D "trick" in the past, is this a fad?

Ruesga: This is most definitely not a fad.

The largest electronic manufacturers around the world have all joined the 3D bandwagon.

Samsung, LG, Panasonic, SONY have all come out with 3D gadgets from mobile phones, laptops, camcorders and 3D screens that need the glasses.

There is an industry-wide multi-billion dollar push to develop the 3D medium globally. This technology is here to stay.

3D electronics were "home made" by people perceived as "mad scientists". No large electronic manufacturer espoused the medium. Today it is changing the game.

BF: Can you describe the technology behind your 3D systems?

Ruesga: 3D Vision's glasses-free system combines the advanced technology of High Definition TV, the principles of 3D and high-powered computer processing.

Basically, it's a combination of German, US, Korean and European technology all rolled into one.

We believe it's time to change the way all of us see things. In that continued media landscape, its all about being remembered.

BF: How can the 3D system make brands rise above the clutter?

Ruesga: Consumers love fun and blended. Medium never mind. "The medium is the message". What would he say about Glasses-Free 3D as platform?

Where the medium is so immersive, that products literally leap out of the screen, consumers actually try to reach out and grab the product.

The overall experience can't be matched. It is bombarded by ads, 3D is the most entertaining and astounding way to stand out.

At the first kind of an ad, people normally tap to eliminate the television, the cable channels, remote control.

An ad is created, people really get out of their way to see the glasses-free 3D.

They stop, look and linger at the system even to the point of calling friends to see it with them.

Studies show also that people remember the messages for a much longer period of time if it is shown in 3D.

BF: How can all these translate into sales?

Ruesga: Our proprietary technology provides companies with a revolutionary platform that they can now, not just to create attention but ultimately to generate sales and elevated sales targets through brand recall.

Multiple studies have also shown heightened engagement, yielding 90 percent in memory retention among audiences, with 68 percent of real statistics displaying a higher probability of following the experience with a purchase.

Studies conducted in other industries also prove the effectiveness of the medium in ranking people perceive, understand and remember ideas.

3-D Vision is backed by Ayalabilt Holdings Inc. represented by Ruben Tin, and a company renowned for ensuring only the highest quality product and service offerings, such as Discovery Primea and Discovery Shores Boracay.

More marketing books to read for 2012

LAST FRIDAY, we published the best nine books on our "To Read" list for 2012. We promised at least 12, so here's the rest of the list.

What's on yours? (Disclosure... some of these books were sent to us for review by the publisher or by our bookstore.)

Here's the rest of the dozen plus a couple more.

10. Outcast: How Starbucks Fought for Its Life Without Losing Its Soul by Howard Schultz

How can you resist not reading the sub-title opening page that reads like this:

Starbucks closed

"Over October (the store, in February 2008, Starbucks closed all of its US stores.

A store counted on 7,100 locked doors explained the reason).

"We're taking time to perfect our espresso.

Grateful espresso requires practice.

That's why we're dedicating ourselves to bringing you (still)."

Schultz goes on to relate how they decided to reclaim 1,100,000 baristas to pour the perfect shot of espresso as part of its comeback plan.

The plan involves all of its stores all at once to remain their baristas was a difficult one. They would lose millions of dollars of sales. Rich rivals would handle further down, and it would be tantamount to admitting that Starbucks wasn't good anymore. Perfect fodder for the critics. But Schultz felt strongly about the retraining: "Training espresso is an art, one that requires the baristas to care about the quality of the beverage. If the baristas only pass through the motions (and I... does are easy... then Starbucks has lost the essence of what we set out to do 40 years ago: to inspire the human spirit."

Wow.

Sold? We are interested to find out how Starbucks reconnected its 'bond' with its customers and came back from what looked like a Borders kind of impending bankruptcy remaining from corn expansion.

Would be a good read while you try to Tall Latte at the corner Starbucks. Here's more from the book description.

"In 2008, Howard Schultz, the passionate and charismatic founder, made the unprecedented decision to retake the CEO right years after he stepped down from daily oversight of the company and became chair.

Convinced that Starbucks had lost its way, Schultz was determined to help it return to its core values and endear not only its customers but also its employees.

In Outcast, he shares the remarkable story of his return and the company's ongoing transformation under his leadership, revealing how, during one of the most humiliating economic times in history, Starbucks again achieved profitability and sustainability without sacrificing humanity.

Offering readers a compelled of a memoir in history that lets us compare unscrolled, the book leaves us to share, in revealing detail, how one company struggled and succeeded itself in the midst of it. The story proved sometime is driven by day-to-day business to conflicts arise and how readers into Schultz's psyche as he comes to terms with his 'limitations and restoring leadership style. Gleaned to a compelling, candid narrative documenting the meaning of a brand as well as a businessman."

Onward

Onward was voted Best Book for April 2011 by Amazon and was a no. 1 New York Times Bestseller).

11. If you are a young or new generation of Filipinos with a heart to lift up the Philippines out of poverty then we need to encourage our kids who show an entrepreneurial spirit bent to go for it.

The younger they are trained and encouraged the better. "Teacher Joy", who is one of the world's top business school creators and proponent of the multiple intelligence education movement, authors a corporate book that parents can read together with their children.

Go Negosyo founder and publisher of the book, Joey Concepcion, in his blog about the book says: "I hope that 40 parents will learn from **8 Simple Secrets** to Raising Entrepreneurs and be able to guide their children to be the best that they can be. Some of our children may not turn out to be what we expect them to be, but never underestimate them. Who knows? They may turn out to be the next multimillionaire. Get Monsters each one is different ways. As parents and teachers, it is our duty to bring out the best in our kids or students, he said, what is important is that they realize the value of hard work, love of family, love of country and love of God."

12. Free Enterprise by Alejo Ramos, Patricia Ramos, 180 forty since we got involved on brand marketing, now the social media marketing, but using marketing to change or influence public behavior in research a better world, looks like this leaves open to plan to our reading list.

Free Economics

Free Economics champions "radical new ways of tackling global poverty". It was awarded the 2011 Financial Times and Goldman Sachs Business Book of the Year. Leonel Barber, editor of the Financial Times and chair of the panel of judges, told us that it was "blazing away by the meaningless of financese and Doha's empirical research. This is going to be a real basis for innovation in policy, innovation in government, and a guide to intellectual debate. This is a business book in the broadest sense". As a consumer, we want to see this book, since the author will result in you getting the equivalent of a 15th or 16th month bonus!

13. The Zappos Experience by Joseph Michelli. This would serve as a good reading companion to The Book, Delivering Happiness, by Tony Hsieh, the founder of Zappos, who just became the billion-dollar online retailer which he sold to Amazon.

The author wonder of stores and online merchandise for us into how to the right mix of smart marketing. It simply laid the policy of creating a great customer experience and going the extra ten miles in order to create a loyal customer. They could be 'for' Zappos, they made customer happiness the new marketing.

Here's more from the book description:

"The Zappos Experience" takes you through—and beyond—the playful, offbeat corporate culture to reveal the core business basics he Michelli reveals what means behind the scenes at Zappos, showing how employees at all levels operate on a day-to-day basis while providing the "big picture" leadership methods that have rocketed the company $1 billion in annual gross sales during the last ten years—with almost no advertising. Michelli breaks the approach down into five key elements:

•Weave a Perfect Fit—create in-depth company culture.

•Deliver WOW Through Swift—deliver a customer experience will wow.

•Drop into the Personal—connect with customers and humanity.

•I THRIVE ON—grow people and products.

•Wow the Vibe—plan hard, work harder.

When you enhance the customer experience, increase employee engagement, and create an energetic culture, you can't help but succeed.

Zappos has proven these five key components form a seamless strategy that's the envy of business leaders.

14. What else should be on your reading list?

We have (How to drive sales, engagement and loyalty through mobile devices) by Jeff Hanes, The Best of Guerrilla Marketing by Jay Conrad Levinson, The Happiness Advantage: The Seven Principles of Positive Psychology that Fuel Success and Performance at Work by Shawn Achor.

All of the books listed should be available at National Bookstore, Powerbooks, Fully Booked and Amazon Kindle as e-books. I've received listing not even books from as it might be perceived as self-serving. (And we've already read them not.) So, go ahead and read and grow your business. We've always found good books to re-energize our spirits when the days and values come in our way. Besides, 99 hours and away that you find inspiration and wisdom in the books we listed.

Send us your recommended reading list or what you think of the books we listed via email: marketingrx@gmail.com. Happy reading and Godbless!

Japan builds training center for persons with disability

JAPANESE Ambassador to the Philippines Toshinao Urabe and Tohoseng Peiking Hopkinson Executive Vice President and Chief Operations Officer of Joy Cevallos-Lanuza signed the Grant Contract for "The Project for Construction of Training Center for Persons with Disability" at the Embassy of Japan on January 30, 2012. The project amounting to JPY1,127 million (P519 million) is funded through the Embassy of Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Project (GHSP).

The Philippines has no standardized sufficient funds to the comprehensive services of the society, including Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), so that their opportunities be education and employment their limitation. The facilities that provide special education or skills training are also scarce throughout the Philippines.

Tohoseng Peiking Hopkinson (TPHI) is a non-government organization, established in 1973 that seeks to uplift the lives of the PWDs and improve their standard of living through programs and services such as education, training and employment, livelihood, mobility and medical assistance.

Currently, some 600 PWDs in the Metro Pacific area are taking advantage of these services. However, there are no spaces for trainings at the compound of TPHI in Cainta, Rizal. Therefore, PWDs are forced to have trainings at workshops, lobbies or small rooms of their dormitory.

With the grant assistance, TPHI will construct a new training center with a capacity of 180 people, and also purchase necessary equipment including projectors and scanners.

The new facility will be able to accommodate around 7,800 people by various trainings each year. TPHI will also use the facility for tours designed to disseminate the conditions of PWDs and various issues of PWDs to students and local business people.

The Government of Japan, as the top ODA donor for the Philippines, launched the GGP in the Philippines in 1989 for the purpose of reducing poverty and helping various countries on the front lines of global issues. As of January 2012, 466 grassroots projects funded by GGP – ranging from roughly $1 million to $9 million – have been implemented by NGOs, local governments units and other non-profit organizations. The total grant for these projects so far amounts to $21.7 million. Japan believes that this project will accelerate and further friendship between the peoples of Japan and the Philippines but also the existing strategic partnership between Japan and the Philippines.

LIFESTYLE Fashion&Beauty

Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan

Contributing Editors: Jessel Epperson and Ria Francisca-Prieto

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

Pinoy behind Harper's Bazaar blows into town –and tells his story

Stephen Gan: 'Being chic is not just about wearing the latest clothes. It's about having a certain style. Some people are just well-dressed. They're not chic'

By Alan T. Vergara

PINOY PRIDE has been a steady source of good news lately with Filipinos doing well in various fields, from sciences to the arts. One such Filipino achiever is Stephen Gan, New York-based creative director of Harper's Bazaar and publisher and editor-in-chief of cutting-edge niche publications such as Visionaire and V.

Gan, who left Manila for New York in 1986 to study at Parsons, and who has been away from home for more than a decade, blew into Manila over the weekend almost on a whim.

"I've been here for 48 hours," he said at the lobby of Makati Shangri-La, where he was staying. "But I'm flying back to New York tonight. There hasn't been much time to do anything but see family and a few old friends."

(more, C2)

THE NEW Pond's Age Miracle Cell ReGEN range claims to renew skin cells by adapting to individual lifestyle, genetic framework.

Yes, Filipinas age gracefully–but they still age

With a new line that adapts to individual skin, Pond's hopes to make Pinays start addressing the problem much earlier than their 40s

By Cherie V. Moral

FILIPINAS TAKE pride in looking younger than their age, such that several years after specialized anti-aging creams were first introduced here, still only two percent of the population use anti-aging products—a figure unchanged since 2008.

This number may sound dismal, but suggests a great opportunity for growth for skincare brands, hence the beauty brands' aggressive effort to educate consumers and introduce innovations to anti-aging.

"Filipinas generally feel that they don't need anti-aging products because they do tend to age more gracefully," says Anya

(FILIPINAS C2)

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Pinoy behind Harper's Bazaar blows into town—and tells his story

From page C1

Gan, does an aspiring photographer, was spotted by legendary man-on-the-street photographer Bill Cunningham walking the streets of Manhattan looking, in his own words, more "posh" than anything.

The old man liked what he saw in Gan, and after treating him to a cup of coffee and some compliments, told him to call Isa Hackett, then editor-in-chief of Details. He did as he was told and was hired a few days later.

"Of course, I wasn't hired immediately as creative director," he said. "I rose from the ranks doing all sorts of jobs in the magazine."

But like any driven Pinoy, Gan persevered as he trained his eye waiting for the big break. And that big break came, ironically enough, after he and his colleagues were laid off by Details' new management.

He didn't lose heart; the setback emboldened him to venture out uncharted territory. With two of his good friends, Gan set up Visionaire, an expensive, image-driven coffee table book, in 1990 and, later on, V magazine. Harper's Bazaar would come in almost 10 years later.

"If you want to be a photographer, you have to love photography," he said. "If you want to be a creative or art director, you have to love graphic design, photography and the art of magazine making. Definitely, having a passion is the answer, and you take it from there. If you're good at what you do, with hard work, you will eventually succeed."

What brings you to Manila?

I haven't been back in 10 years, and this year I woke up on New Year's Day in Punta del Este, on the border of Uruguay and Argentina, where I have been for three more years in a row because I have a lot of Argentinean friends. It's like the Southampton of South America, their summer getaway.

I was sick of all my friends asking me, "Why aren't you back and why don't I ever go back home. So this year, I'm telling all my friends that they have to drag me now.

Did they come with you?

No. I'm all by myself. I came over midday, like, three in the morning. I basically came for the weekend. I'm leaving for Cebu tonight. I saw friends and my family. It's a crime to go to Manila and not go to one of the islands, but I don't have time.

Did you ever think you would end up working for a magazine after that fateful morning with photographer Bill Cunningham?

I was still on the street when I was 18 and going to Parsons. I wanted to be a photographer. I wasn't creative director of Details [before Conde Nast took over], but I was junior fashion editor. I started at the very bottom. I was there for a few years until Conde Nast came in, took over and brought in their people.

I was fashion market editor. I think I was only there for almost two years. I didn't know what to do. After [that], I couldn't imagine myself working for the biggest magazine.

Did you finish your studies at Parsons?

No. I'm a Business dropout. Yes, you can print that. I'm proud to be a dropout [laughs]. I'm proud that you can drop out and make something of your self. You can't always go by your book. Yeah is I couldn't wait to start working. When you're there and you're 18, 19, 20 years old, you just want to start working. I hated being in school. Going back to school wasn't an option. It was either I was a successful magazine or start my own, and I chose to start my own, which was Visionaire.

I started Visionaire with two friends, James Kaliardos and Cecilia Dean, so our squad total. James was from Parsons and Cecilia was from Columbia. That's how we started, putting the magazine together at home.

Visionaire and V are different. Visionaire is more of an art book, collector's item type of publication. It's limited to a select group of subscribers. No ads.

But for V, which is the magazine, we accept ads. Ads are my private endeavor.

So, your day job is as creative director for Harper's Bazaar?

It's my day job or night job, however you want to see it. In some ways, it does pay the bills. I also do a lot of freelance work as a consultant.

Visionaire is 20 years old. V is 11 years old, and last September I celebrated my 10th anniversary at Harper's Bazaar. I'm shocked I've lasted there this long.

What does a creative director do for a magazine as big as Harper's Bazaar?

I'm responsible for the look of the magazine. When it comes to the part of the magazine, people either blame or praise you for it, from the cover to the fonts. Choosing the clothes is more a fashion editor's job, but when I'm working with someone like Karl Lagerfeld, and he asks me that we need a certain kind of black dress in photograph in a certain way, I have to coordinate that with the fashion editor. So I still go to all the shows, and have to update myself with what's going on in fashion.

What is your working relationship like with Harper's Bazaar editor-in-chief Glenda Bailey? Is she your immediate boss?

No, my name comes in second after hers on the masthead. But principally we've gone along quite well during the past 10 years.

Why surprisingly? Does she have a reputation, or do you have a reputation?

Surprisingly because how many working relationships last 10 years, and you still get along very well, considering that we are both very opinionated and very, very different?

How are you different from her? How do you reconcile those differences?

I probably have a bit more eccentric taste than she does. I've always loved more alternative fashion, while she tries to speak to a much bigger audience, which is the magazine's intention as a medium out to mainstream readers. It has a circulation of 700,000 [copies per issue].

She has to speak to a bigger audience, while I'm much more specialized with my taste. I guess we tend to balance each other out.

And in Visionaire until you are published, right? And this is where you go all out?

Yes. We both trained. We looking at these shows, you will get some ideas for photo shoots.

But Manila isn't exactly known as a fashion capital. So what do think you would gain from this trip?

No, it's not. What's funny is when I landed here in the Philippines, I got an e-mail from Josie Natori (designer). She said she heard that I'm visiting the Philippines after being away for over 20 years, and would I tell her next time before going so we could plan something together.

I don't know her very well, but we always say hello to each other when we see each other at parties in New York. But at the same time, I really like her. I acknowledge the fact that we're the only two Filipinos working in the fashion industry in New York.

It's true, you don't find anything here. But maybe if I stayed longer and did more research, I will find some talented people here. Creativity springs forth everywhere.

Do you foresee any designers here other being swept for in Europe?

No. I'm not here to say that I haven't done any research, and I really should. This trip was spur-of-the-moment thing. Next time I come back, I want to prepare things better. Actually, I came from Europe to get here.

What part of you is still Filipino?

I left Pinoys in '87. I was in Details '88 to '90. I started Visionaire in '91. I don't know what part of me is still Filipino at this point. I think I was very lucky to have landed in New York because everyone there is from all these places that I've never been and stayed in New York, so, would feel weirder than if you were an outsider coming in and living there. Almost everybody from New York I know is from some place else. So, I've never felt like a foreigner. I've always felt at home in New York, and all of them are from elsewhere—Paris, Argentina.

Everybody has to prove himself, but everybody is also given equal opportunity, whether good.

Has being Pinoy helped your career in any way?

I think it has helped me in terms of having a certain demeanor. Filipinos are really some of the nicest people in the world, and they're such a good mix. We're reflections of the countries we've been given and come from. We do have an advantage in terms of mindset and facility to express ourselves in English when we go out of the Philippines.

I think there comes a point in your career that you have to grow yourself in two ways, especially in New York. There you're given so much opportunity and you're not judged based on your color and where you came from.

New York is the most colorblind place in the world. You go to immigration when you arrive in America, and you see Latinos and Asians working as immigration officers. New York is very welcoming.

So, being a New Yorker, do you experience culture shock when you go to US cities in the Midwest and the South?

A friend of mine has a joke. He calls those places cities outside New York the flyover states—states that you fly over to get between New York and L.A., New York and Miami, New York and San Francisco. I've never been to Chicago, but I hear it's nice.

The Christmas before I started going to South America, I went with a friend on a road trip, and drove all the way from Atlanta to New York. That was my taste of Middle America, but we stayed in a number of nice hotels along the way so we didn't know any better.

Being part of a mainstream magazine like Harper's Bazaar, what can you say about the rise of fashion bloggers and the fact that they've now overtaking front-row seats. Has it now since removed her gun gone?

Losing power? It's a good question. I think it's a question every journalist is dealing with at the moment. There are many famous Filipino bloggers, right? I think it's not a question of replacement. It's not one group of people coming in to replace another. I think there are roles that will always be of use to any group. It's about coexisting.

There's always news that would end up better in a newspaper. There's news that would end up better in a magazine. There's news that would end up better in a blog... Every form of media is finding its niche... I visualize it like a pool of information, and there are different pipelines that come out of the pool. Some end up in magazines, some on TV, some in blogs.

STEPHEN Gan, Filipino, Harper Fashion and definitely now a fashionista.

A COPY of Visionaire comes with Lil Wayne on cover.

POP princess Justin Bieber gets the V treatment.

Is there any room for bloggers to grow in the industry?

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As a magazine, how is Harper's Bazaar responding to this technological change? How has it changed you as a professional?

It drives me to make the magazines more beautiful in a way that you want to keep them. You will never want to print out your book and throw it away. You keep it. That's information that is of the moment. It's disposable. Next day there's something completely new. It's information that you don't intend to keep.

What do you keep? I have a lot of young people these days whom I thought would not want to read magazines. But strangely, they love great magazines. With the explosion of information some is backlash that "my God, we can't take this long anymore."

I think younger people that I meet these days, someone, say, like Lady Gaga, who's 25 and a Twitter queen, loves print. She loves magazines. There's nothing like holding a beautiful, well-thought-of picture.

Blogging isn't the right word. Maybe, it's not a competition. Everything, including magazines, has a place.

I guess catalog shots are out?

Yes.

In your work in fashion, who are the three people you admire most?

How about four? It would be Karl Lagerfeld, not just because he's a good friend, but also because he's been in this business longer than anyone else. He's got that incredible stamina. And when we do shoots together, it would be 3 a.m. and everybody is tired and weary to go home. He's still up and about. Nobody knows where he gets that energy. It's one of the biggest mysteries of the fashion world.

Secondly, I'd say Lady Gaga. On the opposite side of the spectrum, she's 25 and she's become the most famous pop star in the world. I met her when she was 21, and there never was anyone who had that. I feel like she's done in three years what Madonna did in 20 years. In terms of growth, she's phenomenal.

She's instinct, for. I don't think what she does in public is an act. Being crazy is just a facet of her personality. You can be normal and crazy at the same time. In all her craziness, she's very well-grounded.

The third person is photographer Mario Testino, also a friend. He's one of the best photographers in the world. I've worked with him because he comes from Lima. We always joke around that he comes from Lima and I come from Manila. So we both come from Third World countries. He's also achieved so much. Being such a talented photographer coming from a Third World country, we know it's not easy.

Fourth, Carine Roitfeld (former editor-in-chief of French Vogue). She was the editor in chief of French Vogue for 10 years, and was very good as it. She's really amazing.

Is there a difference between fashionistas and fashionables? Do you mind being called a fashionista?

I don't like the term fashionista. I feel like it means that you're a fashion victim, a slave to fashion who'd give up everything to feel cool and trendy, and it's not good to be like that. I don't think it doesn't have a good connotation.

I'm somebody who's simply interested in covering an industry and a market. My chosen area happens to be fashion. Perhaps, I'm a person who's fashionable, who has an interest in fashion.

What else you think are fashionables?

The ones first people I mentioned. Then, Glenda Bailey, my business partner Cecilia Dean.

What makes them so worthy? What qualifies a woman fashionable?

Somebody once said to me that there's a difference between being well-dressed and chic. Well-dressed means that you went to the shop and you bought the most expensive thing. Chic is not just about wearing the latest clothes. It's about having a certain style in your way of life, something that can't be defined. It goes beyond the latest pair of shoes or it bag.

Is Manila fashionable? is not bad, but some people are just well-dressed. They're not chic. There's a difference. Defining chicness is subjective, but if a chic woman walks into this room, we would all look at her and agree that she's chic.

To me, being chic is more to covering than being pretty. Jessica Trevisani, for instance, wasn't a pretty girl, but she was very chic. Or Coco Chanel, for that matter. She wasn't pretty, but she was quite chic.

IN JAAP'S book, Lady Gaga did it three years what Madonna did in 20.

Yes, Filipinas age gracefully—but they still age

From page C1

Farrington, senior brand manager of Pond's in the Philippines. "They feel that an anti-aging cream is needed only when they hit their 40s; otherwise, it's no concern very much. While the anti-aging market is healthy to start, this market has yet to reach its maturity. We believe it also is big the market."

This week, Pond's rolls out the latest iteration of its best-selling Age Miracle line, launched in October in the Pond's facilities in New York and Boston and Illinois media. The improved formulation claims to renew skin cells by adapting to skin's unique genetic frameworks. It's our formula that adapts to each individual skin.

While the previous Age Miracle carried the tagline "Advanced Cell Complex," the new formula now bears the words "CellReGEN" to underscore the improved technology. The range now also comes packaged in new, deep cobalt-red packaging bottles, a subtle change from the old packaging.

Pond's Age Miracle Cell ReGEN is so called Intelligent Pro-Cell Complex, a union of bioscience, the newest update on the business being the addition of 11-PSA or 11-hydroxypsoralen acid, which is responsible for renewing skin cells by adapting to the uniqueness of each individual's skin.

It still contains the CLA or conjugated linoleic acid, which is said to promote brisk cell renewal; retinol, which enhances the skin's ability to produce collagen and repair itself; five added boosters of pho hydroxy acid (AHA), an exfoliant; and glycerine, which enhances skin's moisture level for a visibly youthful-looking appearance.

Renewal power

Pond's' claim is that Age Miracle Cell ReGEN gives skin cells three times more renewal power (based on clinical tests over a period of 28 days, versus subjects whose skin remained undressed). It claims is that it can visibly restore fine lines, improve skin's clarity, improve moisture and lighten up spots in only seven days.

Dr. Valerie Callender, a dermatologist whose expertise is pigmentation disorders, and who spoke at the New York launch, clarified that owing to each person's unique genetic makeup, individuals respond differently to products: some may experience quick and dramatic results, while for others progress may be slower. Secret, she noted, "do not exist."

The press launch included a workshop at Greenbelt in Manhattan, the perfumers empowering Ms Ivy creating the Age Miracle fragrance as well as a meet-and-greet with celebrity fashion photographer and author Nigel Barker, who has visited the Philippines more than once, Barker spoke about embracing our hidden talents, and how to discover them—sometimes by accident.

"What I mean was that when you're middle, don't be afraid of them," Barker said. "If you're a happy person, you're middle-aged and old-above. These are the stories of my life. If you fill it with hatred, you remove your mojo to some extent... People take things a little bit to the extreme these days. It's a beautiful world. We're talking about slowing down aging. It's not about not caring for your skin: stay out of the sun, drink plenty of water, apply lotion so it doesn't dry out and crack."

The launch was held after a series of lectures and workshops by Pond's Institute in the sprawling Unilever R&D center in Trumbull, Connecticut, one of Unilever's six R&D facilities in the world and where 60 percent of all Unilever R&D is done. It has 750 scientists, mostly Ph.Ds.

Unilever spends $27 million each year in R&D each year; of this, $10 million is spent in Pond's' skincare R&D. Unilever has 200 patents to date in this area. Along with Age Miracle, Pond's also launched the acknowledged skin-whitening line called Flawless White. (*Here's what else in a future issue.*)

Continuously growing

Age Miracle was introduced in 2007, and has since steadily in Filipino consumers' consciousness. It claims to be No. 2 in the anti-aging segment and is "continuously growing," according to an industry report, but Pond's' market share in Southeast Asia, the company claims, is more than twice its closest competitor's. "Skin whitening is still a bigger business here, Farrington said.

In addition to Thailand, Filipino women tend to pick up anti-aging solutions at a younger age, the bulk of anti-aging consumers in the Philippines are in the 40-plus bracket. Pond's advises women to begin an anti-aging regimen as early as age 25, which is when the skin's ability to renew itself begins to decline.

Pond's has been pouring money into its nostalgic lines. (Nostalgia is a marketing term that refers to more products aimed at competing with prestige brands, but priced lower than prestige brands though higher-priced than the general mass offerings.) The multi-billion dollar market potential of this segment. In Thailand, a small Asian country, the brand has reinvented 60 percent of its brand and franchise in mind-set.

"The growth rate is double that of the mass range," echoed Farrington. "Nostalgia-mass lines have the most investments, since we can invest more in terms of technology. Skin care is an innovation-led category, and consumers really want to try new and advanced products. And since we're hoping a jumping off from merely two percent of the entire face market, it has to reach deeper and be greatly.

"With the luxury brands, the tougher in the expatriate and the continuing research across the Pond's customers across the world, it is almost certain that Pond's will bring this anti-aging technologies to premier heights."

Taking into account Filipinas' tendency to "try before you buy," Pond's introduces here not sachets for its nostalgic lines, but tiny 18-g jars as trial packs. In March, Pond's will also introduce a bespoke formula for its Age Miracle 20s Cream as response to women's chances for fragrance-free and hypoallergenic formulations.

Age Miracle's other ranges—day and night cream, serum, toner, eye cream, mask, facial moisturizer, microdermabrasion kit, intensive cell boosting kit—now available at all leading retail stores. Drug stores and supermarkets.

THE POND'S global team with fashion photographer Nigel Barker in New York: Michelle Gobin, regional director for face fondness Asia; Pooja Arora, global brand director for skin lightening; Monica Bernales, global brand manager for anti-aging; Rupa Shukla, global vice president; Jeff Wang, global brand manager for Flawless White; Vicki Sparks, global brand director for anti-aging; Angeles Alanis, head of global PR; and Jacqui Youngston, senior brand manager in the Philippines.

THE POND'S luminizer Pore Vivis stars in its cut-of-the-art technology, including robotics (above), in soap bubble-head aging process (left).

BARKER: "Embracing your wrinkles—doesn't mean you can shoulder's soap those from happening."

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HEWLEG at the press: It's their latest re-interesting Age Miracle's regimen is at Greenbelt in Manhattan.

THE LEAD scientists at Pond's Institute: EVP Dr. Peter Gallagher, Unilever VP for Skin R&D; Dr. Pratibha Sane, Unilever R&D director for Global Face Care CTC Skin and Regional Technology Center; Dr. Peter Muldrew, global research director for skin appearance; and Dr. Harish Shetty.

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Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan Contributing Editor Stef Cabal

LIFESTYLE

How to handle hate mail

There have been times when I wanted to delete my account because I couldn't take how some people could be so mean and rude

By Elisa B. Aquino
Student contributor, Ateneo de Manila University

GONE ARE the days when one's loathing of a certain individual was released through tried-and-tested ways, like vandalizing bathrooms, passing around notes or talking behind their backs. We now have the Internet to think—and curse.

Websites such as Formspring (see: formerly known as Anonymous) were originally created as communities for conversations. You get to know friends and even strangers by asking random questions about them, and you can state your thoughts and opinions.

The catch, though, is that you can do it anonymously. Though the invention of the creators of these websites may have been good, some users have abused their freedom (dissenters and trolls) these platforms for online bullying by sending hate mail.

Some have labeled this act as "trolling," and due to its severity, there have been reported incidents of teenage suicide resulting from this form of digital cruelty.

Trolling

I have a Formspring.me account, and I have received thousands of questions the past months. When people know they can hide behind their computer screens, they aren't very nice. I occasionally receive hate mail.

They always target your looks, telling me I'm downright ugly or there's something wrong with my face or my body. When people have nothing better to do, they send me disgusting, perverted questions. They ask personal questions I'm never comfortable answering. Since I have a blog that also serves as my online portfolio, they tell me how bad my photographs and artworks are, and why I shouldn't be called an artist.

These are just a few examples of what I have to go through daily. How do you handle hate mail? I won't lie. There have been times when I wanted to delete my account because I couldn't take how some people could be so mean and rude. Strangers have even threatened me. I remember crying the first time I got hate mail because I was so affected by it.

One of the wisest things my friend told me was that it's inevitable that others will disagree with me.

It is so cliché, but I cannot please everyone even if I wanted to. Through time, I learned how to handle hate mail—how to accept real criticism, ignore useless messages and, at times, respond to them.

There are things you must always remember when answering hate mail. First, you always have a choice—to publish the questions you get or not. Participating me does not require its members to answer all the questions they get. Some people ask overly personal, rude and vulgar questions. They do this only out of curiosity or to make fun of others.

The more you keep going down what they want, the more they will abuse and feel superior to you.

Second, distinguish between real criticism and hate mail disguised as criticism. When people criticize, they do it to make something or someone better. If it is, indeed, valid criticism, when person states good reasons why you are wrong, and suggests ways to correct your faults. Either take in this state and if all they do is underscore your mark and weaken your self-confidence, ignore it.

Valid criticism

Here's a simple example. If you post a photograph of yourself, valid criticism would go... maybe a lighter shade of lipstick to better fit your skin color, or anything and having your roots would make you look better.

Hate mail disguised as criticism goes... you should never wear that shade of lipstick again because it makes your fat, dark lips stand out.

Third, you must not take all submissions to heart. Sometimes it's difficult not to, especially when they make it seem as if they're telling the "truth." What they're really doing is toying with your feelings and your self-esteem. A person is more likely to become a victim of cyber-bullying if she or he keeps caring about what other people have to say.

Always keep in mind that people have different insights. A lot of people judge others only from what they see on the Internet. As long as you have not offended anyone or have not intentionally hurt others, hate mail does not mean anything.

Remember, hate mail is merely words meant to hurt you, make you weak and scared and distill your confidence. If these tips still don't work for you, maybe you aren't ready for a Formspring.me account because it can take over your life and make you miserable.

People who spend their time going through one account after another, accumulating evidence just because he or she took him behind his or her computer screen, will never be an evaluable as you.

And to all the haters out there, always remember what a certain "Glee" character once said: "Just because you're free to say whatever you want doesn't always mean you should."

Premium beauty booty in a box

LIAMING AESTHETIC clinic Flawless has released Forever, a line-set containing perfume, lightening lotion, soap, sheer powder and the DeCrease line cream, also referred to as Botox-in-a-Jar. All these products contain the same scent as the perfume—also called Forever, a fun fragrance for the typical filipina.

The scent consists of refreshing lemons covering up notes of more delicate jasmine and violets. The idea be little is complemented by the Forever lightening lotion, which enhances the fragrance while simultaneously rejuvenating and moisturizing the skin.

The soap has lightening properties to provide even-toned and fair skin, while the Forever Sheer Powder is choose powder that brightens the skin with hints of blueberry. The DeCrease Line Botox gives it's injections and diminishes fine lines and wrinkles, leaving skin looking youthful and youthful.

An add-on, Flawless has developed Forever for Him, a musky, sexy and solid blend of amber, vanilla and vetiver.

Each product and service under the Flawless banner has been researched, tested and sourced. The Forever collection, retailing for P1,300, is a premium assembly of products that not only smells delicious but also gives results.

Visit www.flawless.com.ph

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marie france

Sugar doll

It's all about pretty pastels and feminine details this season. Lavender dress with embellished collar, by Jacket from Patrick Hamoff, chain necklace used as bracelet, Converse Finds: shoes, fishtail & flowy socks, stylist's own

Dainty daisy

Add flora cuteness to your wardrobe for a playful and colorful look

Dress and gray belt, Cristi Dino; floral sleeveless blouse, Hubbell & Hung; cuff lace bracelet and necklace, Adrienne Finds: floral flats, Sol Y Mi Shoes

Summer ready

Try on khaki to welcome the warm season

Printed long-sleeved blouse, Dazo khaki shorts with tassel detail, Hubbell & Hung necklace, Dril, wedges, Sol Y Mi Shoes

Total control

Shirt black dress and try on khaki for a fresher, crisper look

Printed sleeveless and blazer jacket, Dazo; mini dress, Dril; animal print wedges, Forever21

In full bloom

Bask in this perfect transition weather with fun, ultra-feminine trends, as we prepare for summer's happy return

Fringe benefits

Sashay your way to the dance floor in ultra-

fringe dress

Gray dress, Cristi Dino; necklace, Forevernew Finds; gold cuff

The Gatsby girl

Work the flapper girl trend with drop-waist dress, pearl accessories and updated wrapped 'do

Velvet dress, to order from Ilaria Ponnoff; pearl necklace and gold necklace with bow detail, Zay; lace bracelets, Forevernew Finds; fishtail flats, Sol Y Mi

Archt. Shamcey Supsup is the Newest Brand Ambassadress of CW Home Depot

Who can recommend the largest, widest, most convenient and the most complete-quality building, finishing and furnishing store in the country better than a practicing architect?

Binibining Pilipinas 2011 and Ms. Universe 2011 2nd Runner-up Shamcey Supsup is the newest brand ambassadress of your building and construction needs, CW Home Depot. Shamcey is a licensed architect and self-confessed loyal client of CW Home Depot even before she turned beauty queen.

"Archt. Shamcey Supsup is our one and only choice for CW Home Depot's first-ever celebrity endorser. Not only does she embody the grace of a beauty queen, she also has the line of your favorites to match it. Leading the best architecture licensure board exam and wowing the world with her signature homeric walk and magnetic smile, Shamcey is truly a building and construction royalty", says CW Home Depot's Managing Director Mr. Ferdinand Co.

CW Home Depot, a one-stop store known for homeowners and builders alike, provides everything you need to build or renovate your home all under one roof.

CW Home Depot is a joint venture of Cebu Chamaes Handicrafts Inc. and WestPoint International Sales Co. It has 4 existing branches located at Ortigas, Makati, Bonifacio Global City, Manila Bay and Pampanga. More branches are on the way this 2012. For updates on CW Home Depot activities and events, visit www.cwhomedepot.com or add them at facebook.com/cwhomedepot.

In photo (L-R): CW Home Depot's Marketing Managers Ms. Abie Ua, Finance Manager Ms. Nina Lendrito, Consultant Mr. Victor Chan and Managing Director Mr. Ferdinand Co, CW Home Depot's Brand Ambassadress Archt. Shamcey Supsup, CW Home Depot's President Engr. Napoleon Co, Legal/Comptroller Ms. Ada Co, Corporate Communications and Events Manager Ms. Ana Flores and Accounting Manager Ms. Michelle Jara

In photo (L-R): CW Home Depot's President Engr. Napoleon Co, Consultant Mr. Victor Chan and Managing Director Mr. Ferdinand Co, CW Home Depot's Brand Ambassadress Archt. Shamcey Supsup and Binibining Pilipinas Charities, Inc. VP for Marketing Ms. Cecile Marvilla during the contract signing

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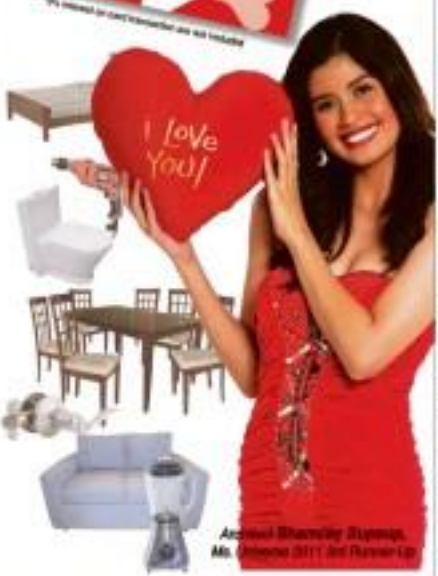

Archt. Shamcey Supsup, Ms. Universe 2011 2nd Runner-Up

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Makati: 2299 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City, Tel. 810-0201
Manila Bay: Mercedes Rd. cor. Dela Rosa St., Pasay City, Tel. 556-1661
Ortigas: 1 Doña Julia Vargas Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Tel. 882-8825
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In photo (L-R): CW Home Depot's Consultant Mr. Victor Chan and Managing Director Mr. Ferdinand Co, CW Home Depot's Brand Ambassadress Archt. Shamcey Supsup and CW Home Depot's President Engr. Napoleon Co

Archt. Shamcey Supsup during her contract signing for CW Home Depot

Some Fast Facts about Shamcey

Architect Shamcey Dumlao Supsup was born on May 16, 1986 and was our beauty who is also recommended by the Philippines in the Miss Universe 2011 pageant where she placed third runner-up. Supsup joined Binibining Pilipinas 2011 and won the Binibining Pilipinas Universe title crowned during the coronation night held at the Araneta Coliseum on April 16, 2011. She was officially certified her to represent the Philippines at the 60th Miss Universe pageant held in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on September 12, 2011 where she was placed as third runner-up.

During the Miss Universe pageant's question and answer portion, judge Steve R. Fox asked her the question - "Would you change your religious beliefs to marry the person that you loved? Why or why not?" Another reply was, "If I had to choose my religious beliefs, I would not marry the person that I love because the first person I love is God, who created me. I have my husband my counselor, and this is what makes me who I am. And if that person loves me, he should love my God, too." She was heavily favored to win the title but ended up losing the Miss Universe question and answer portion while ranking as one of the evening gown competitors.

General Santos City - Home of the Beauty and the Brave

She grew up with her father Ferdinand Supsup while her mother Rowena Supsup worked overseas as an engineer. Her family moved to General Santos City where she was three years old. Dumlao is also the hometown of Manny Pacquiao. Before she began studying at Manila, she helped her father in their farm feeding the livestock they were growing. When asked if she could become normal, she replied, "I want to be a kid so I can fly and see the mountains."

As a child, she already did very well in school and was an avid book reader. She topped the Philippine Architecture Licensure Examination in July 2009 after she graduated magna cum laude from the University of the Philippines. She was valedictorian in her grade school batch while she graduated salutatorian in her high school batch at the Makati High School.

TALKING TRENDS AT FOREVER 21

What's in store at Forever 21?

Everything bright and beautiful as colors surge in bold palettes . . . and a stylish mix of lovely clothes you can polish for a romantic destination or wear to explore new adventures in the city.

Forever 21, which has come to the Philippines through a partnership with the SM Retail Group, had a phenomenal opening of its flagship store at SM Megamall in 2010. One of the fastest growing and most successful apparelines in the U.S. offering the latest fashion trends at the greatest value, Forever 21 continues to extend their reach in the Philippines with the opening of more stores at SM Makati in the Central Business District in early 2011 and at the Northwing of SM City Cebu late last year.

With a fast turn-over of inventory that reflects the ever changing moods of fashion, Forever 21 has anything, anytime — Love 21, Heritage 1981, Forever 21 Girls, Forever 21+, and 21 Men. The store also has a wide collection of Shoes, Accessories and Intimates.

The stylish set gets more shopping fun and exclusive privileges at Forever 21 when they shop using Forever 21's most essential accessory, the Forever 21 Mastercard. Apply for the card by visiting the Forever 21 store as well as GDO branches. The application form can also be downloaded at www.bdo.com.ph.

The fash set can also save on more fashion ammunition as they shop with their friends with Forever 21 Gift Cards in ₱1,000 and ₱2,000 denominations. These Gift Cards are also perfect to give away to your shopping buddies on any occasion.

Forever 21 stores are located at the Second Level of SM Megamall A , Ground Floor of SM Makati in the Central Business District and at the Northwing of SM City Cebu . You can also follow Forever 21 on www.facebook.com/forever21ph and www.twitter.com/forever21ph.

GRAB ONE NOW!

For your shopping convenience or to give as gift to your shopping buddies, get Forever 21 Gift Cards in denominations of P1,000 and P2,000 only.

The Forever 21 Mastercard is your ultimate shopping accessory.

Gamine Charm

Sweet dreams are made of these — creame shades, romantic frills, goosebump chillers, soft silk and cashmere ones. Everything is awesome in light in pieces that take you through the pages of the world's most romantic novels.

1. Lace Lace Dress
2. Romantic Little Dress
3. Flirty Fine Body Suit
4. Dainty Lace Top
5. Lace Zipped Top Draped Jacket
6. Silk Satin Halter Top
7. Ruffled Mini Skirt
8. Lace and Pearl Necklace reinforced with a Gold Chain
9. Charming Satin and Pearl Bracelet Set
10. Flower Cocktail Ring
11. Golden Long Strapped Bag
12. Printed Platform Court Shoes
13. Floral Platform Wedge

Color Surge

All is bright as palette currently makes vivid high voltage hues right up the runway to-wear. Body con skirts and sleeves, boxy tops and cropped blazers are made more eye catching in delectable shades. Even shoes, bags and accessories are splashed in a fun point blur palette, in the collaborative world brimming with pretty pinks, bold blues, daffodil yellow, orange zest, refreshing green and all shades in between.

1. Two Tone Sleeved Jumper with Body Con Skirt
2. Sporty Shoes with Cut Out Sleeves
3. Color Block Colored Blazer paired with Bright Body Con Dress
4. Two Tone Boxy Button-down
5. Color Blocked Skirt
6. Two Tone Lightweight Pullover
7. Multi-colored Bangle Set
8. Hand Woven Bag
9. Metallic Bangle Set
10. Multi-colored flats add a new dimension to casual wedding
11. Sheer on the bright side with colored sneakers

LIFESTYLE Fashion&Beauty

Jump-start your diet through expert weight counsel

KNOCKOUT!

Ria Francisco-Prieto

WHEN IT comes to weight loss, there are two types of people: the slow starters, who need a push to jump-start their diet or workout, and those who get lazy once they see they're about to achieve their ideal weight.

I've been surrounded by people trying to lose some weight, either after pregnancy or because of a really good appetite. After attending a press launch for Sexy Solutions (and being very impressed with the weight loss of Raymond Gutierrez and Jojo Gabinelle who tried it and swear by it), I had to tell friends that I think they should set a consultation to see what could jump-start their diet.

It dawned on me that sometimes the hard part is really just to get the ball rolling; in this case, get the fat burning.

Sexy Solutions has the latest technology in burning fat. It also makes available a dietitian to orient you on the right things to eat, and you can even have them prepare your food for you.

Sexy Solutions is a one-stop shop for losing weight. It is for those who want to lose weight or to achieve their ideal weight. If you don't like what you hear, you can just walk away. No commitment. And to those with loved ones trying to lose weight, drag them, bribe them if you have to. Sexy Solutions works.

Sexy Solutions is at Suite 302, Abacus Plaza Bldg., Amorsolo cor. Dela Rosa Sts., Legaspi Village, and Unit 23, G/F Ranch of Market Boulevard (ToMo), 26th St. cor. 11th Ave., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig; tel. 4307399.

Eye creams

When it comes to facial products, I tend to be more thorough. I have my

JUMP-START 33

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS

A. LOPEZ — BY ED ARCIA

PUGAD BABOY — BY PH_LEADER

DICK TRACY — BY JOE STATON AND MIKE CLARK

LOVE MOTS — BY ELIZABETH HONG

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

RIKO MACHINE — BY FRANK ABERIN

SEIN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

MUTTS — BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

SHERMAN'S LAGOON — BY JIM TOOMEY

DUSTIN — BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER

TULDOK — BY MARA COLI

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

TODAY'S BORN TODAY You are confident and independent. You're not afraid to be different and you have creative and/or avant-garde flair. You like a busy pace, because you need to be stimulated. You enjoy the company of others, and you especially enjoy exchanging ideas, bright people and the electrical charge that's in the air. You're a natural leader and you have the ability to motivate others. Actress Jessica Alba, singer Christina Aguilera, and actor Ben Affleck were born on this day.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You're an excellent spy in today's stars, so you'll be able to learn the details. The key is in a practical, problem-solving mind.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) It's a good day for financial calculating. You might want to figure out a budget or ways to reduce your debt. Following your instincts would serve you well.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Today you will benefit by willingly accepting your duties and obligations. Physical activities are also appropriate. Your energy level is high, and you're in the mood to do things.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You might work behind the scenes to benefit others or yourself. Actually, you're willing to put the needs of others before your own today. Date: Multiple Choice.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Listen to the advice of those who are older and more experienced than you today. You'll learn a lot. Don't be afraid to ask questions.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Make a conscious effort to be more open and receptive to others today. Others may have ideas that are different from yours, but that doesn't mean they're wrong. Be willing to listen.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Make long-range travel plans. Your ruling planet, Venus, is in a favorable position today. Also, you're in the mood to do things with others.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Your self-confidence is at a high point today, especially concerning things requiring physical, intellectual or artistic skills. Pursue creative projects.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Your powers of concentration are quite excellent today, which makes you a terrific person with whom to discuss your ideas. Also, pay attention to detail.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Your powers of concentration are quite excellent today, which makes you a terrific person with whom to discuss your ideas. Also, pay attention to detail.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Patience in matters might have been one thing you didn't develop as a child, but you're learning it now. Be willing to wait. Don't take risks regarding matters of the heart.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Mentor your family members, perhaps a parent, can give you some advice today. Don't be afraid to ask questions. Be willing to learn something because you might learn something!

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that each row, column, and every 3×3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more programs visit www.sudoku.com

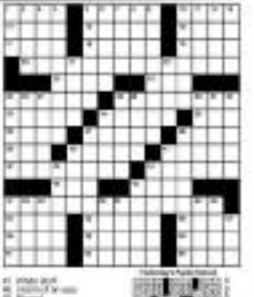
Answer to previous puzzle

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

	2			5			6	9
6			7		8			5
				3				
	4						2	
5		3				1		6
	1						8	
				7				
9			2		6			8
8	7			4			3	

Difficulty Level ★★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CITIBANK private wealth's Philip Austria and wife Marivel; Eduardo Garcia

FINNA Felix, Sandra Sharkar

ESP DEPUTY governor Hector Rigonan Jr. and wife Maria Teresita

PEARLDRILD'S Kevin Tan, Italian Ambassador Luca Ferrari

PRIMESTART board member Peter Favila and wife Alice

CITI country officer Sanjiv Vohra, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas governor Amando Tetangco Jr., Citi credit payment products head Bee Tee, Concentrix managing director Bambi Perez, Francis Lorenzo, Julie Carrother of Smart, Citi marketing director Cecille Fernando, Melana Gokongwei, Citi consumer business manager Sergio Zarate

GUESS Maureen, Georgina Wilson, Arnel Pineda

Romance, nostalgia and real-life affairs combine in 'Mamma Mia!' gala

ANNA and Clare Sobrepeña

NEST Product Loyalty marketing officer Ric Jaden and assistant vice president Ric Domingo

MAMMA MIA!" has finally landed on Philippine shores. Those who love the infectious music of ABBA, "The Mega" will feel the most resounding thrill of all with the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) raising the curtain on the international hit, "Mamma Mia!"

Humility aside, I had seen the musical for the first time during its original run at London's West End. Then I saw it on Broadway in New York, then in Melbourne, Australia, and last October in Stockholm, England.

The Swedish Kinderwater cast is now here in Manila to rock us out of our seats, dislodge, and indeed it did so during the special Gala Night, hosted by Concentrix Manila, that made us all relive the 1970s hits of the Swedish group ABBA.

Disco balls hung from the ceiling of the CCP lobby as hot disco themes brought back memories of the disco era, while we sipped our cocktails before the prompt start of the 8 p.m. show.

Event promoter was the world renowned Citi who invited some of their most valued clients, who joined top personalities and celebrities to get into the "Dancing Queen" frenzy, darling!

Hearing the "Mamma Mia!" experience while entertaining the guests were Citi's well-respected country officer Sanjiv Vohra, no less, and wife Mimita. Also present were consumer business manager Sergio Zarate and wife Cookie; global marketers head Aeron Fernando; marketing director Cecille Fernando; and credit payment products head Bee Tee.

ALKEMY Tan-Zubiri, Patricia Pesimo

ABS-CBN chair and CEO Gabby Lopez

PHILIPPINE Daily Inquirer publisher Raguel Nubla

TESDA Primo Valdez

NETMEG Chief Jessica Arevalo-Pangandian and wife Lory

INTERNATIONAL jewelers Linda Dholakia and Bobby Gill Pintos of Artesania

EO ANG Joanna Rae Bautista

TOURISM undersecretary Cynthia Carrion

MIKAA Reale, asst. Miss World 2011 first runner-up Gwendoline Ruais, Darlene Anderson

THE "MAMMA Mia!" cast giving a heart-stopping performance

CAST of "Mamma Mia!"

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arambe

Photos by Alex Van Hagen powered by NIKON D90 CAMERA

ESP DEPUTY governor Juan de Zuniga Jr. and wife Zamy; Francis Caraghaog, Citi Global Markets head Arcus Pe'nuncle

ABS-CBN president Charo Santos-Concio

FORMER First Lady Imelda Marcos

More than just a musical treat, the gala of "Mamma Mia!" was an awesome opportunity for very lucky Citibank cardholders, who won tickets to watch the show with a one-on-one to the CCP to boot.

Philip Austria, who came with wife Marivel, and Edmund Rianda, with sister Edwina, were via an electronic raffle for cardholders who used their rewards points at Citibank partner-establishments.

"This 'Mamma Mia!' treat is part of Citi's Money Can't Buy Experiences, a program which gives Citibank cardholders the chance to win exclusive perks and privileges when they use their rewards points," explained Citi's consumer business manager, el singapino Sergio Zarate.

"It is truly rewarding to enjoy great treats like this that I can share with a loved one," Philip A., a graduate economics and Citibank cardholder for three years, told us.

For Rianda, the chance to watch "Mamma Mia!" "is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, being among the viewed to experience this international musical, will forever be cherished by me and my sister, who just couldn't wait to watch the show," he said enthusiastically.

Watching the show onstage gives a completely different experience than watching the movie version.

It would give you the feeling of being truly part of the whole fun, romantic comedy. It would culminate where its 1999 debut.

Are you just here to go and see the phenomenal happening, and find out who the true father of the bride is he is, it is? cupid?

"Mamma Mia!" will run at the CCP Main Theater until Feb. 19.

After the show, while waiting in the lobby for the car to arrive, me chatted with a high-profile, eye-catching beauty in her fifties but looking 20 years younger.

She told me how she loved the show because she could relate to it.

"In what way?" I asked her.

"Well, when I was in college abroad, I had a romance there with another student who was from Manila. When I got back here, I then had two other boyfriends at the same time without any of them knowing what I was doing behind their backs. But as fate would have it, I ended up marrying my boyfriend while we were abroad."

"Need we?" I asked.

"I'm happily married and I love my kids, but I still keep into the two others during social functions," she said. "They still flirt with me, and I do the same," she laughed.

"But watching this show," she added, "I should write a book and call it 'Papa Mia!'"

Refreshment, we both cracked up laughing.

Now, don't you just love this free-spirited woman? Wow!

Smashing makeover? Only a tried-and-tested salon will do

IT'S NO SURPRISE that some of the best salons are in Makati, the country's financial center. The discerning owners and shakers know a good place when they see one.

Those that have stood the test of time and the most demanding customers are easily among the ever best. One such place is Essensuals Touch Gay Salon at 6750.

The place has modern interiors with a black-and-white theme. Through the changing times, it continues to attract a strong following and stays true to its winning formula of cleanliness and professionalism. Clients keep coming back for the no-pull haircuts, beautiful hair color and great service.

For starters, you can schedule a Style Consult and discuss your needs with the stylists. Among the services offered are the Signature Cut for a personalized new look; Mani-Pedicure for long and short hair; Creative color or color blocking; Highlights Balayage; Foiling; Color Wash or Color Highlighting; Full Curls using the classic cold perming method). Whom for the digital perming technique; and Free and Mens Styling Packages for any occasion that you might have. Hair treatments by Inveneo and "many more!" services are also available.

Isabel Roces

Hair overhaul

On our recent trip to Touch Gay, I decided to share the excitement by bringing in a friend who desperately needed a change in hairstyle. She had worn the same straight Marie Claire look for years, for fear of getting a bad haircut. Ironically, she is a fashion-forward makeup artist who is up to date with makeup trends. But her hair? Not so much. She needed a hair overhaul to match the trendy makeup she wore daily. So I decided to take her to a salon that could do exactly that.

We started by updating her look with layers in the front and back (from P900-P1,500 depending on stylist), followed by a Creative Colour using Inveneo coloring stock (P4,400) then a Inveneo Oil treatment (P1,275). The result: rocket hair, that half-brown, half-blonde look that was every Hollywood starlet's fave 'do during the holidays. The style is sexy in an edgy way but also casual. So I wasn't surprised when my friend totally fell in love with her new, bonded look.

Touch Essensuals Tivoli Gay at 6750 Retail Arcade Ayala Avenue, Makati, tel. 8116950/8280882.

To continue with that sexy mane kind of feel, try Rockaholic Dirty Secret Dry Shampoo from Bed Head (P1,800). The secret is that you don't have to do wet shampoo every day, because the dry shampoo gives the same same results. Just spray at the roots and let it absorb excess oils and odor, making hair smell fresh while giving it volume and boldness—perfect for big hair or updos. Plus, the new stainless bracelet won't show on your locks or pillowcases.

TONI & Guy Salon

ROCKAHOLIC Dirty Secret Dry Shampoo, Bed Head Chocolate Headfair+epair Conditioner

For those with dry and damaged hair, it's time to treat your head to Bed Head's Chocolate Kind (1,725). This luxe repair treatment cushions and deeply conditions dry, damaged hair. Damaged ends are repaired while dry hair is softened and smoothened, leaving it wrapped with a delectable chocolate fragrance.

For spontaneous, carry on with Bed Head's Some Like It Hot Shampoo (P1,595) and Conditioner (P1,675). The bamboo keeps hair calm and cool with a refreshing blend of avocado, grape, aloe and cucumber. These ingredients guard against humidity, UV rays and thermal damage to hair.

CHAIRS Tessie Rodrigo, Karen Nazareno, president Nimo Lerma, project director Ree Maria Lazaro, co-chair Lois Custodio. Standing: Nikki Valerio, Mimi Peters, habitat director Raymond Villanueva, co-chair Chloe Rosete-Perigmi, Thelma Sanz, co-chair Lory Shah

Friends of CCP present fashion show

THE FRIENDS for Cultural Concerns of the Philippines (FCCP) presents a fashion show, "Fashion with a Vision," in support of Filipino designers featuring Dita Sandico, Ong, Pato Tesoro and Hilda Veloso. The graduating class of BP Education Technology batch 2012 is coordinating.

This will be held on Feb. 7, 7 p.m., at Mezz Lounge, Manila Polo Club, McKinley Road, Forbes Park.

"Fashion With A Vision" is headed by FCCP president Nimo Lerma and FCCP fashion show committee core group composed of directors in charge Rose Hilda E. Lazaro, chairs Karen Nazareno and Tessie Rodrigo; co-chairs Lois Custodio, Lotty Hidoc, Chloe Rosario-Perigmi, Rosie Lucio-Landicho and Cory Montes.

Proceeds of this fundraising will go to the scholarship program and other projects of the FCCP. Call 8727989, 8170695.

Jump-start your diet. . .

from page 1

luxuries. When it comes to eye creams, however, an investment is in Realities. They a difference you'd never see.

Luckily, this Christmas, I got two jars of eye cream. The one I'm using now is Lancôme's Rénergie Yeux Multi-Lift.

I opted to use Lancome first since I am a loyal user of its Hi-Fidelity eye makeup remover. I have tested a dozen of removers but, so far, Hi-Fidelity is no one but. I love that it has a creamy, anti-aging action, a lemon eye contour that minimizes lines, and diminishes dark circles. My eyes look more luminous and I don't have to use concealer, which is such a relief to me since every time I did, my concealer, I imagine what it does to my skin and the wrinkles it is creating.

It is very important we take care of the skin under our eyes since it is very sensitive area. It's prone to wrinkles and dryness. Oh, dreary inconvenient and ugly eye damage can under-eye, that's why it is important to use the right product.

The ring finger should be used when applying eye cream since it is the weakest of the five. Gently dab the cream in a circular motion to promote blood circulation.

When it comes to taking care of your undereye, do it regularly, so keep your skin well moisturized at all times to keep wrinkles at bay.

Kitchen measures

The kitchen is a gold mine of beauty remedies. Here are tips to help eliminate eye bags:

- Slice cucumber or raw potatoes and place them on your eyes for about 20 minutes. Or, put two herbal tea bags, old ones, for 15 minutes. Tea contains tannins and polyphenols that have a calming effect on the eyes and eliminate undereye bags.
- Get two cotton pads and wet with cold milk. Remove excess and leave the pads on eyelids for about 20 minutes. Replace once they get warm.
- Leave a metal spoon in the freezer and use it every time you have puffy eyes. Press the convex side to your problem area for about five minutes and see the results.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Lira Soriano-G. Velarde

'Halaw' goes to Oxford

PEDRO Sibanumber Marcos Dayot's "Halaw: Ways of the Soul" is one of 10 movies on the shortlist for the 10th Oxford Brookes University Human Rights Film Festival. Films from Asia, Africa, the Americas, Europe and the Middle East will be screened at the fest, which will run from Feb. 27 to Mar. 2 in the United Kingdom. "Halaw" was chosen for "tackling the theme of exploitation and human trafficking." Dayot was one of the honorees in the 2nd Success Indie Filmers. Reynold Sam (Regge P.

CHEER FACTOR

UK bans Rachel Weisz ad

RACHEL WEISZ

LONDON—British regulators banned a magazine ad for an unsinging moisturizer by Elizabeth Arden on Wednesday, after upholding a complaint that the image of the model, actress Rachel Weisz, was misleading.

The two-page ad, which appeared in September, featured a black-and-white closeup photo of Weisz and a list of the properties of the cream, including reducing the appearance of wrinkles.

The UK Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) said it had upheld a complaint by lawmaker Jo Swinson. "The image in the ad did not misrepresent the luminosity or wrinkling of Rachel Weisz's face [but it] had been altered in a way that substantially changed her complexion to make it appear smoother and more even," an ASA ruling said. "The alterations produced [that the image in the ad] substantially exaggerated the performance of the product in relation to the claims 'Skin Looks Smoother' and 'Complexion Looks More Even.'"

Elrond and examiner firm were enabled to present their product in the best possible light, and that Weisz (currently shooting a movie in the Philippines) had been professionally styled and photographed under ample light and with a soft focus. AFP

Random thoughts and a plea for artists

I AM HAPPY to report that my daughter Nicole is back to riding her scooter, thanks to Imanol, new protector par excellence of her uncle Mister Lirio. Her skinned elbow is all fine and good, but something I wouldn't want her to experience again.

***

She had her first ballet rehearsals today. She's at the most basic level possible, but already there's an evaluation—in pink leotard, tights and split-sole ballet slippers, hair tied back in a neat bun, she wears the same list on the front of her leotard.

There were two teachers in the room: her regular teacher and this one overlooking the students. I couldn't see very well from where I stood but, given that Nicole had taken lessons for only a few weeks, I think she did very well.

You're probably wondering: Why ballet? Well, my first cousin, Maestra Ravenia, is a prima ballerina. The title was bestowed upon her by another prima, Diane Margot Pamoya. From what I've been told, no ballet dancer can call herself one—the title must be bestowed.

So, every girl in my family has to take ballet. I was a student for several years, as were a lot of my cousins. Blonde had to do it, or Blamiya would never talk to me again. And my friend Jhai Jhai Manzon, where he worked with her on "Romeo and Juliet," so I expect his daughter Gamora in ballet class to a few years. She'd be a great "Carmen" someday; she already has the fearlessness he is. (Foundation: squirrels and mosquit... Iron very cute).

***

I was one of the many theater-goers who headed to the CCP Main Theater to watch "Mamma Mia!" I first saw it in 1997 during a working trip to London, and had a ton of fun. I had a ton of fun this time around as well. The difference? The audience in Manila was, interestingly enough, far more active compared to its West End counterpart.

If I remember right, in London, whenever the first few words of a most familiar song were sung, the audience would scream and clap. Perhaps they knew not to take it too seriously, and see it for what it is: a few hours of enjoyment with sentimental favorites from Swedish supergroup ABBA. The packing hall becomes a disco and platform heels enhanced the trip back to fave and glam.

Finally, toward the end, the CCP crowd got into the right spirit—on their feet, arms waving, singing and dancing along.

To the cast and crew, congratulations on a wonderful gala night, and break legs for the rest of the run!

Also, take the time to enjoy the intermission numbers. Some of the performers were actually from the cast of the show, and they were fantastic. Especially Jenny Ferrer Lopez, who sang "Dancing Queen" and "Super Trouper" with gusto. Her voice is strong and powerful, and she has the stage presence to match. Her rendition of "Super Trouper" was so good that I wished she had been given the entire song to sing.

***

My traveling days are coming again. That means landing at different airports. I am hoping that our own Manila will get ranked one of the "world's worst" airports. We may not have the worst airport, but it's not as bad as a lot of people say it is. Truth be told, I've seen worse. I'm optimistic that it'll get better. Airports are the first places that countries see. A good first impression leads to a great visit.

***

Speaking of things that need improvement, a few of our theaters could use a pick-me-up as well. I wonder if members of the well-heeled private citizenry would take up the cause of refurbishing our theaters. When I see theaters abroad with brass plates behind certain seats, it makes my mouth agape. There are renewed persons who make a small contribution to fix a seat of seats, replace the carpet, or have the drooping toilet painted. We keep going on and on about how proud we are of our artists; it's about time we did something to justify such pride. Until then, we have no right to partake of the accolades they reap.

Shameless plugs

▲I will be performing at the Retreat by Center of Alabang Town Center tomorrow, 6 p.m., in a show called "One Voice, One Community Day Concert," a fundraiser for Tropical Storm "Sendong" victims. Other performers include Bituin, Adhesion, College of Saint Benilde Chorale and Dr. Terence Pascual. Plus Gerard Salonga and Filharmonika. See you all there!

▲This is the last weekend to catch Repertory Philippines' "How Full" starring Isay Salonga and Dindi Rivera, directed by Audie Gemora. Head over to Onstage, Greenhills 3/F. Call Repertory Philippines at 571-9026 or Ticketworld at 891-9999 for tickets and more info.

BACKSTORY

Lest Salonga

How Mega really feels about Piolo

SHARON Cuneta: "I'd be a hypocrite if I said I still liked him."

By Pachalo Concepcion

SHARON Cuneta has learned some very hard lessons in the biz. The actress-naked her to ensure more lessons during a recent press con for her newest movie with Bhutin Nievera, "Once in a Lifetime," on Feb. 15 at the Solaire theater in Parañaque.

No guarantee

First, she said, "When you're nice to people, it doesn't mean they will be nice to you." Her mom (as nothing but love) wrote "Sakto" actions made to destroy the truth." That, she noted, was nothing less than a cold-eye shock.

She recalled that when she asked her handlers at one time why they gave media what they wanted, the usual reply was, "That's showbiz."

Cuneta also recalled that, in the early years, she thought that a reporter's presence was a humble bunch. "Akala ko kaibigan mile ako. Iyon pa pag may press con."

Too personal

During this press con, Cuneta arrived late and was barely complained—as was still cooler than usual, a couple of sweaters quipped. She was apologetic, saying she had been under the weather lately and both cried by cough.

But her bubbly disposition, punctuated by hearty laughter, disarmed her audience. And when they started discussing questions, Cuneta tackled them all, even if some were not pre-aimed for comfort.

Gay connection

One columnist married her unanimously with a remark about a former suitor who turned out to be gay. The columnist said Cuneta could make a film with BC Concepcion titled, "Like Mother, Like Daughter." Newsman Laughter ensued, but Cuneta looked amused. The writer quickly shifted gears and asked about the singer's P1 billion contract with TV5.

After confirming the figure which, she said, was "divided into five years," Cuneta smiled off the shrewd she'd be doing well in the flagged network.

About Piolo...

Asked by reporters how she kept abreast of the music scene, she pointed out that she had to learn new songs every week for her idol show, which had run for 11 years on ABS-CBN. "It was difficult but fun," she said. "I remember Mr. U (Ryan Cayabyab) describing my voice as 'contemporary.' I'm one who sings instructive pearls."

Talk drifted back to RC's teary confessional on national TV about breaking up with Piolo Pascual. Cuneta was quite candid when she said: "Sputoy ako kasi sumobrahin [Piolo]. Pinahal ko pa rin e. Pride ... Hindi ko siya nakitang durusta sa buhay ni ninuman." She was kind enough to add, "But I respect him as an artist."

Jean Dujardin perfection personified in 'The Artist'

LOS ANGELES—"You have to have a lot of sausages in your pocket," said Jean Dujardin of his wonderful documentary with Uggie for the dog in the celebrated film, "The Artist."

In person, Jean has the same killer smile that he flashes in George Valentin, the 1920s silent movie star he portrays in director Michel Hazanavicius' black-and-white Oscar contender in this awards season. Up close, Jean evokes Douglas Fairbanks, his inspiration for the role that has won him a Golden Globe and other best actor awards.

Uggie is the Jack Russell terrier who almost steals "The Artist" from Jean and his leading lady, Berenice Bejo.

'A genius'

Jean recounted times he spent with the dog who, incidentally, also appeared in "Water for Elephants." Uggie and Jean had a funny scene in "Hey Tits Tits" together. Sometimes he followed me, and sometimes I followed him. It's very difficult to act with a dog. There was a lot of improvisations. When I put Uggie on the table, I don't know how he's going to react."

Before the cameras rolled, Jean said he and Uggie were together for 15 days with Omar (Von Muller), the dog trainer. "Uggie got used to my voice and smell. He rehearsed the walk, the bang, the head down and the gaze [with me]."

Uggie is "a genius" in Jean's book. "He is not a dog. He is a star." While acting as a mistress in the 90s, 26 Academy Awards show at the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood, Jean still got to munch Uggie in his dirt meetings with host Billy Crystal.

Meeting Clooney

Jean—who started in two-minute bond spoofs in secret agents OSS 117 and a reportedly France's highest-paid actor—talked about meeting George Clooney, star of "The Descendants" and a rival for the Oscar best actor honor: "George Clooney is impressive in his performance, ... charming ... very accessible."

Jean likened Clooney's performance to that in "The Artist" as a silent film icon whose fortunes slide when the talkies arrive. "I didn't try to imitate [Charlie] Chaplin or [Buster] Keaton," he said. "I just wanted to be inspired by them, but my references were Gene Kelly for the comic and Fairbanks for the swashbuckler."

Jean displays his charming talent as a career with Brenner that brings back the glorious days of Hollywood musicals. "I trained for five months with Fabien Bain," he said. "He is the fastest dancer in the world. I like dancing. It was my first time to dance in a movie. My reference was Gene Kelly."

With a laugh, Jean revealed that some of the lines he mouths in "The Artist" are nonsense. "In the scene when I'm in the bar, there's a misunderstood of me and I'm yelling. That's gibberish. There were no actual lines. The crew thought it was French but it wasn't."

Asked what he likes about LA, setting of "The Artist," Jean said: "If you have night on real beer, it's okay. I really love that. He used that in Picture. I love Orpheum, the old theater in downtown Los Angeles, the artists, Pantages Theater and Paramount Studios. It's the strange here. It's the texture of acting. I like the commitment of all the actors. They will cut their hair accordingly because they're in a movie. I'm happy in France, you have to give them a hat. Everything here must every year. I love being here and I'd love to be here again."

It turned out that Jean had been in the Philippines. His business had separated than Jean and director Hazanavicius met Bejo in 2007 in premiere "OSS 117: Cairo, Nest of Spies." Michel also directed the two "OSS 117" films, with his wife, Bejo, as the female lead, too.

Jean's other hit movies include "The Artist" and "Hello Goodbye." California, another dude. "It was the story of a movie in Nice, but there are no waves in Nice."

Down time

When does the French actor do during his free time in this hectic awards season? "Sleep, eat," he said, laughing. "I have a passion for three years now: I assemble metal. I go to antique stores and flea markets. I weld and metal before and make things together. I make statues but I don't show them to anybody."

He started off the films and actors that made an impact early in his life: "The movies of Jean-Paul Belmondo ... I watched [the actor's] films a lot. Pentacon ... "The Pink Panther," "The film of Terry Gilliam. I love that film ... Robin Williams ... Jeff Bridges. Some of Hitchcock's favorites. "Love Is a Funny Thing" Antonio Gonzalez Vitorio Gassman. All the Italian actors ... "The Mission" Elgort Bogaard. I like watching actors who look like they're having fun. When Gassman walks into a room, you don't have to edit at all. He's going to assemble the whole space. He is brilliant and has lots of panache. Actors inspire me more than the movies themselves."

'Very radical'

Jean will be seen this year in "The Players" and "Mobius." Despite the surprise journey that "The Artist" has taken him on, starring with his best actor triumph to May last year, Jean claims that he keeps his feet on the ground. "I am not a dreamer," he said. "I am very rational. It was beyond our wildest dreams (but this film would exist, that it could go to Cannes, that it's here."

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Mickey V. Arguelles

KAMARA Ching (left) and Nica Tee

Pinoy kids' voices in 'Ben 10'

By Oliver M. Palamiuk
Distributor

TWO FILIPINO kids will be heard on the coming Cartoon Network (CN) animated special, "Ben 10: Destroy All Aliens."

Eleven-year-old Nica Tee and Kamara Ching have been chosen to voice background characters for the CGTV movie airing in the Philippines this year. The kids, winners of the "Ben 10: What's Up With That Alien?" contest, recorded their lines in a Manila studio.

Hong Kong-based Angela Lee, CN Asia assistant PR manager, said the winners participated in the regional contest. "They were picked randomly by our governor," Lee told the bounce. "Aside from the Philippines, we had a search in Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia and Australia. The winners from Malaysia revealed the same thing. Filipino viewers will hear the Philippine winners at the end of finale. Last Ana will hear the Malaysian kids.

The kids recorded lines for two of Ben Tennyson's schoolmates. Nica, 10, found the recording experience "hard." Ching, 11, thought it was "a little bit easy." Both are fans of the show. "It's a mad my friends and ask them to watch," Tee said.

Cast members at the Debbie Gibson on Jan. 15. "Actors, more Dancemakers, forget it not."

Carmina: I did not walk out on ad shoot

By Marisol R. Cruz

ACTRESS TV host Carmina Villarroel had denied walking out on a TV commercial shoot after supposedly being riled by a costar.

"There's no truth to that," Carmina told reporters during the press con for her new program, "Showbiz Inside Report," which she cohosts with Janice de Belen, Ami Marquez and Dyan Ibay. The show premieres tomorrow at 2:30 p.m. on ABS-CBN. "I'm very patient at work. Ang dito ko man, nandyan ko ang gano'n na."

None of that

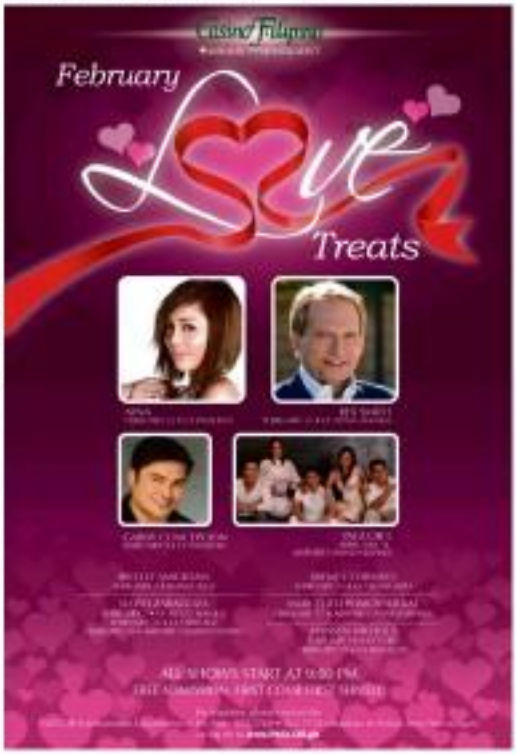
Carmina was relating to an item in Daily Inter Gerard's business column "Stalkwood" on Monday, which said she almost missed the shoot in "pack up" because she was put off by Claudine Barretto's "endless demands." These supposedly included a bigger dressing room, a say in the cast list of the shoot, and a bigger speaking line in the commercial.

"Yes, it's true that we worked on a TV commercial together, but none of the stuff reported happened," Carmina said. "I normally just keep quiet when I'm involved in a dispute, but I had to speak up this time. Claudine (who is no stranger to the limelight) is very professional. She had a good working relationship with Claudia and actress Judi Ho. Maria, who is to the commercial with them. "They said the source of the story was someone from the advertising agency that made the commercial." Carmina said. "We did chat a long time ago; I don't know why that is coming on now."

She speculated that it was the result of some people's displeasure over her decision to sign up with ABS-CBN, after having worked for rival channel GMA 7 since 2005.

First home

"Nobibigyan ng daing kuko," she explained. "Hindi ko even be grateful to the people I worked with in GMA 7, but it's time for me to come back to the place I grew up in. ABS-CBN gave me my first TV shows (Wakdhyaan Lahat) and Khantoo ang turo sa akin. Parang first home ko."



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3: CHRONICLES
4: CONTRABAND / HAYWIRE / DARKEST HOUR
5: THE GREY
6: JOURNEY 2
7: MAN ON A LEDGE

GREENBELT 1

1: CHRONICLES
2: JOURNEY 2

GREENBELT 3

1: GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO
2: MAN ON A LEDGE
3: CHRONICLES
4: JOURNEY 2
5: THE GREY

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1: MAN ON A LEDGE
2: CHRONICLES
3: JOURNEY 2 (3D)
4: THE GREY
5: THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO

AYALA CENTER CINEMA

1: THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO
2: HAYWIRE / CONTRABAND
3: THE DARKEST HOUR
4: UNDERWORLD: AWAKENING (3D)

MARQUEE

1: THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO
2: JOURNEY 2 (3D)
3: CHRONICLES
4: CONTRABAND

MARKET! MARKET!

1: CHRONICLES
2: THE GREY
3: MY CACTUS HEART / JOURNEY 2 (3D)
4: JOURNEY 2
5: HAYWIRE
6: MAN ON A LEDGE
7: UNDERWORD AWAKENING

TRINOMA

1: UNDERWORLD AWAKENING
2: DARKEST HOUR
3: MY CACTUS HEART / HAYWIRE
4: CONTRABAND
5: THE GREY
6: THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO
7: MAN ON A LEDGE

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3: THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO
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MARGOT Robbie, Christina Ricci, Karine Vanasse and Kelli Garner

Christina Ricci soars in airline period drama

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JESSY Mendiola and Sam Milby

SAMANTHA Brown

A RETRO TV theme seems silted "Pan Am" stars Christina Ricci as Maggie Pyne, purser on board Pan Am's new Clipper Majestic jet who has climbed up the social ladder to a better life.

She works with the stubborn and selfless Pilot Colleen Voltaire (Kelli Garner), who's unbeatable sensational affairs only too well, but is a searching twin-sister when it comes to unknown of the heart.

The cinema is set in 1963 and chronicles the lives and loves of its aircrew.

Kelli Garner, Margot Robbie, Mike Vogel and Michael Mosley also star in the series that premieres Feb. 13 and airs Sundays at 9 (8) p.m. on ABS-CBN.

Held captive

"Tunay Na Buhay" on GMA 7 features a 26-year-old mom held prisoner in his own house by his mother for as long as he can remember. Was he a victim of abuse?

The episode, titled "Bihag," airs tonight after "Saksi" on GMA-7.

Friends, lovers

Sam Milby stars with Jessy Mendiola in ABS-CBN's "Mundalo Mo Kaya" tonight, where he's play best friends who eventually become lovers.

Their happiness is cut short when their parents get in the way.

Kaka stars Mickey Ferriols, Lito Pimentel, Richard Gutierrez, Lauren Uy, Bossie Gonzales, Hayward Hart, Hermes Bautista, Erlinda Sandico and Williams Lorenzo.

Stars' bio

The cinema-based documentary series "Biography," which spotlights mid-six-percent hot stars, begins airing on CNN Next TV this month.

Kate Middleton, now the Duchess of Cambridge, is the subject on its premiere episode on Feb. 5 at 10 p.m. On featuring Sandra Bullock, Brad Pitt, Tom Cruise and Demi Moore.

It features interviews with the subjects and commentaries from friends, family and associates, in addition to historians and experts.

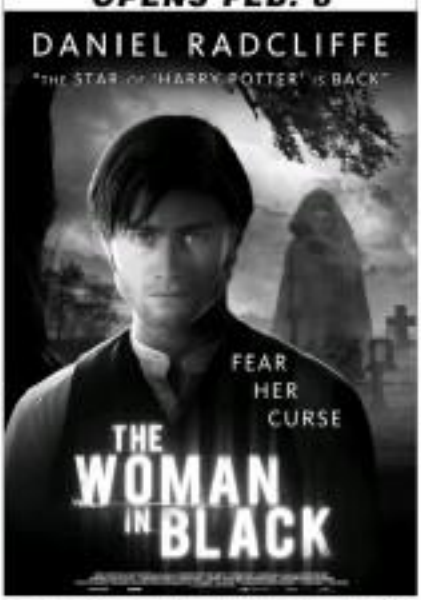
Travel gems

"Samantha Brown Presents" shows the secret nooks and travel gems in Napa and Sonoma, Greek Islands, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Ireland and Vancouver in this latest series on TLC.

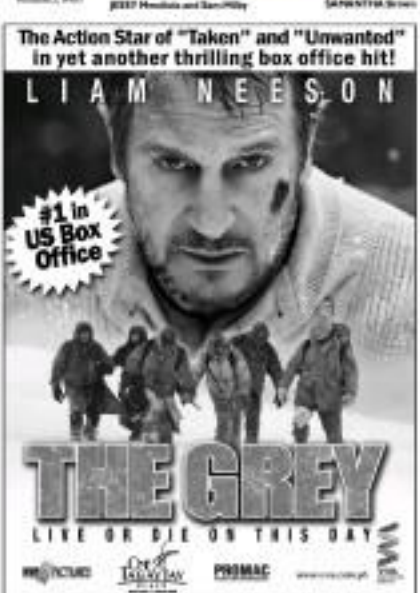
It airs Mondays at 10 p.m. starting Feb. 6, with encores on Sundays at 8 p.m.

THIS MOVIE IS NOT YET RATED BY THE MTRCB

OPENS FEB. 8



The Action Star of "Taken" and "Unwanted" in yet another thrilling box office hit!



MTRCB R-13

NOW PLAYING!

Adele to sing at Grammys
LOS ANGELES... British soul singer Adele makes her much-awaited comeback after throat surgery at the coming Grammys during acceptance of the music industry's top nine unedited awards back and on Sunday.
Adele, nominated for six awards at the Feb. 12 show, has been out of action since October when a throat problem forced her to cancel off shows for the rest of the year.
The Grammys will also honour pop luminaries from Paul McCartney, Coldplay, Rihanna, Foo Fighters, Bruno Mars, Nicki Minaj and Taylor Swift.
AFP
CHEER FACTOR

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THE GREY
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THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO
CHRONICLE
JOURNEY 2: THE MYSTERIOUS ISLAND
3D

POWER PLANT
THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO
JOURNEY 2: THE MYSTERIOUS ISLAND
CHRONICLE

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 JOURNEY 2: THE MYSTERIOUS ISLAND 3D
2 THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO
3 CONTRABAND
4 CHRONICLE
Shangri-La Plaza

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
1 THE GREY
2 JOURNEY 2: THE MYSTERIOUS ISLAND
3 THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO
4 MAN ON A LEDGE
5 CHRONICLE
Digital 6 Cinema
Digital 7 Cinema

NEWPORT CINEMAS
GIRL WITH A DRAGON TATTOO
JOURNEY 2
CHRONICLE
CONTRABAND
MAN ON A LEDGE

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P550
P750
P999 MAX
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0
60 hrs
80 hrs
100 hrs
125 hrs and beyond
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ENTERTAINMENT

Living Stars

Julie Bonoan G. Velarde
E-mail: entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

HEARD

HEARD from TV news consultant Grace Lee, entertainment ex, GMA 7's "Un Oreo," on how she said P-Noy got regarding: "Bayaw nagpaawit ang mangyaw."

"PARTY! Party with Vice Ganda at Fantasea" started... guess who? With Rose Cipriano as owner the newest...hotel in Fantasea Hot Spring Leisure Parks, Clark Freeport Zone in Pampanga recently, concluded a whole-day event of family fun.

Alfie celebrates 73rd; Imee hosts victory party

PARTY! PARTY!

By Reyani San Diego Jr.

WEDNESDAY last week, talent manager and entertainment writer Alfie Lorenzo marked his 73rd birthday with friends on the roof deck of Imperial Palace Suites in Quezon City.

Lorenzo's actual birthday was Thursday, so he waited till 12 midnight to blow out the candles on his cake.

Among the show biz luminaries spotted were Batangueño stars Amalia Fuentes and Jaclyn Jose(both, actress-stars Sen. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. and Phillip Salvador, child stars Jillian Ward, Tape Inc.'s Malou Choa-Fagar, ABS-CBN's Lory Milanes, GMA 7's Bridge Magnate, TV5's Perci Intalan, management executive Ronaldo Reyes, Ribbey Rhodesia, Jane Buenaventura and Noel Ferrer, Regal Films producers Lily and Roselle Monteverde, filmmakers Maryo J. de los Reyes, entrepreneur Joke Tordesillas, actors Ricky Davao, Leeroi de Leon and daughter Janine Gutierrez, Jeffrey Santos, Ace Cruz, Alwyn Sosa, singer Erik Santos, "Eat Bulaga!" hosts Anjo Yllana, Dawn Meneses and Jose Yu.

"Eat Bulaga!" mainstay Allan K. lived an impromptu mini-concert with singer Gerald Santos and actress-turned-comedienne Aiza Seguerra and Davao.

'Pirates' night

On Saturday night, Davao Sen. Imee Marcos and film producer Irene Marcos threw a victory bash for her pet project, "Pirates," which won best picture in the indie section of the recent Metro Manila Film Festival.

The film's supporters trooped to A-Side or The Collective, a youth party place along Makati's Jr. Makati.

Leading the revelry were the film's stars John Wayne Sace, JM Guzman, Jeremiah "Myco" Caruncho of Philippine All Stars and Alwyn Uytingco who was with girlfriend Jasmine Garcia. Also reported were filmmakers Jeffrey Jeturian, Mark Meily and Jenny Abunawas, "Kimmy Dora" producer Raymond Lee, Cesar Ian Muhlach and son Miguel Villaluerna.

Imee's three sons—Borgy, Michael and Matthew Marcos—were her attentive escorts. Matthew helped put together the movie's edgy urban soundtrack, she said, "and introduced me to hip-hop."

On Feb. 8, "Pirates" will be screened in SM malls—Megamall, Mall of Asia, Fairview, Manila, North EDSA, Cebu and Iloilo; on Feb. 29, SM Baguio, Davao and Batangas.

ANJO Yllana

DAISY Reyes

PHILLIP Salvador

GERALD Santos serenades guests.

DEANNA Meneses and Annabelle Rama

B-DAY celebrator Alfie Lorenzo and Amalia Fuentes

JILLIAN Ward

JANINE Gutierrez and mom Lorna de Leon

NICKY Davao

IMEE and sons (from left) Matthew, Michael and Borgy

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"High-voltage tension!"
"Non-stop ACTION, THRILLS and SUSPENSE!"
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MAN ON A LEDGE
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PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST AND INVITATION TO SUBMIT SHORT LISTED BIDDERS

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DOLE NCR Building, 897 Mabini St.,
Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National / Citizenship	Position
GUIJIN MINING AND TRADING CORPORATION #76 Sorsogon Condominium, Mandaluyong Ave., Mandaluyong City	Liang Xu Chinese	Production Specialist
ACCENTURE, INC. #5th St.Jg., Ayala Ave., Makati City	Sunil Hiranadi Sajtul Indian	Specialist
NCS ACADEMY INSTITUTE, INC. (f/k/a Aguirre Ave. BF Homes, Parañaque City	Wee Kyung Soo Korean	Marketing Agent
LOGICARE, INC. 2/F One World Square, McKinley Hill, Taguig City	Jon Langeson Danish	Service Desk Analyst
LOGICARE, INC. 2/F One World Square, McKinley Hill, Taguig City	Marianne Sabastian Obsingar Swedish	Service Desk Analyst
LOGICARE, INC. 2/F One World Square, McKinley Hill, Taguig City	Hans Mikael Mortenson Swedish	Service Desk Analyst
HUAWEI TECHNOLOGIES PHILIPPINES, INC. 12/F PBCom Tower, Ayala Ave. cor. V.A. Rufino St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Xiaodong Xu Chinese	Sales Manager
HUAWEI TECHNOLOGIES PHILIPPINES, INC. 12/F PBCom Tower, Ayala Ave. cor. V.A. Rufino St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Qing Ji Chinese	Project Director
HUAWEI TECHNOLOGIES PHILIPPINES, INC. 12/F PBCom Tower, Ayala Ave. cor. V.A. Rufino St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Hu Yu Chinese	Contract Manager
LAOWANG FENGHUA PHILIPPINE MINING CO. INC. Unit 3102 Sunset Area Tower Condominium, #5201 Roxas Blvd., Pasay City	Kehui Wang Chinese	General Equipment Operator
LAOWANG FENGHUA PHILIPPINE MINING CO. INC. Unit 3102 Sunset Area Tower Condominium, #5201 Roxas Blvd., Pasay City	Kijun Lee Chinese	General Equipment Operator
KUK CHE UNAGON TRAINING ACADEMY, INC. Rm. 403 Acro Bldg., 107 Makati St., Diliman, Quezon City	Chae Woong Moon Korean	Branch Executive Manager
SILAURIA & CO. 2/F Wisteria Tower, 4781 Pasong de Roxas, Makati City	Kentaro Tojo Japanese	Manager
BUENARD DIESE SYSTEMS CORPORATION #39 Solomid Cinco Hills Tower 108 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City	Yoon-Seong Hwang Korean	Consultant
GOLF ARC COMPANY c/F #711 Bldg. Abreg Ayalde International Airport, Parañaque City	Adel Abbas Abdulla Ayadeen Bahraini	Resort Manager
ASTELLAS PHARMA PHILIPPINES, INC. 23/F Salcedo Towers, 169 H.V. dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Yasushiro Nakagiri Japanese	Vice President - Administration
AVON COSMETICS, INC. 15/ Summit Point, Makati Ave., Makati City	Mark Kevin Gonsiko American	Executive Director - Fashion and Home Asia Pacific
ALLERGAN HOLDINGS PHILIPPINES, INC. Unit 2002, Alfonso Plaza Condominium, F.O. Canonigo & Roxas, Diliman Center, Pasig City	Seung-Je Cho Korean	Country Manager
MINTEL1, INC. Unit 801 Cambridge Bldg., Julia Vargas Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Kyungsik Shin Korean	Operations Manager

Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National / Citizenship	Position
SMARTMAX PHILIPPINES, INC. 16/F Accralaw Tower, 2nd Ave.cor. 30th St. Crescent Park West Global Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City	Luis Manuel Iglesias Melo Spanish	Associate Product Manager
MOD-ARN TRADE INC. #61A, Sitiyan St., Sta. Mesa, Manila	Jajeet Singh Indian	Purchasing Officer
LARRY LENDING CORPORATION #6 Orquia St., Barangka Ilaya, Mandaluyong City	Kulwant Singh Indian	Finance Officer
LARRY LENDING CORPORATION #6 Orquia St., Barangka Ilaya, Mandaluyong City	Surinder Singh Indian	Sales Supervisor
CITIBANK, N.A. 8/F Panaso ko Roxas, Makati City	Sylvia Wijaya Singaporean	City/core and Customer Service Head
CITIBANK, N.A. 8/F Panaso ko Roxas, Makati City	Pasha-ahh Ahmad Singaporean	Branch Oversight Function Head
CITIBANK, N.A. 8/F Panaso ko Roxas, Makati City	Sandra Lee Hale American	Consultant for Inter-integrated Finance
LAOWANG FENGHUA PHILIPPINE MINING CO. INC. Unit 910 Sunset Area Tower Condominium, #5201Roxas Blvd., Pasay City	Longjun Lu Chinese	Finance Officer
POWERSQUARE INTERNET SOLUTIONS CORP. Makati Ave. cor. #1 Constellation St., Bel-Air Makati City	Xin Chen Chinese	Technical Supervisor
POWERSQUARE INTERNET SOLUTIONS CORP. Makati Ave. cor. #1 Constellation St., Bel-Air Makati City	Weihe Yuan Chinese	Technical Supervisor
OCEANAGOLD (PHILIPPINES), INC. 2/F Carlos J. Valdes Bldg., 100 Aguirre St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Owen John Smith Australian	Area Manager - Subpar 1
POWERSQUARE INTERNET SOLUTIONS CORP. Makati Ave. cor. #1 Constellation St., Bel-Air Makati City	Qi Xin Chinese	Technical Supervisor
POWERSQUARE INTERNET SOLUTIONS CORP. Makati Ave. cor. #1 Constellation St., Bel-Air Makati City	Shengqiao Yuan Chinese	Technical Supervisor
OCEANAGOLD (PHILIPPINES), INC. 2/F Carlos J. Valdes Bldg., 100 Aguirre St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Peter John Mosch Australian	Area Manager - Earthworks
SAN ROQUE POWER CORPORATION 28/F The Enterprise Center, Tower 1 6766 Ayala Avenue, Makati City	William Baker Caswell American	SVP - Operations Risk Administrator
PACIFIC SEA GPO SERVICES, INC. 28/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Siew Ling Ann Malaysian	Data Analyst Officer
OCEANAGOLD (PHILIPPINES), INC. 2/F Carlos J. Valdes Bldg., 100 Aguirre St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Patrick Leonard King Australian	Materials Controller
PACIFIC SEA GPO SERVICES, INC. 28/F Yuchengco Tower 1, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Kirti Nirupa Thal Indonesian	Data Analyst Officer
PACIFIC SEA GPO SERVICES, INC. 28/F Yuchengco Tower 1, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Chaiyapak Kongsirikul Thai	Data Analyst Officer
POWERSQUARE INTERNET SOLUTIONS CORP. Makati Ave. cor. #1 Constellation St., Bel-Air Makati City	Lanlu Jiang Chinese	Technical Supervisor
PACIFIC SEA GPO SERVICES, INC. 28/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Anchicha Wimolsathitpipat Thai	Data Analyst Officer
LAOWANG FENGHUA PHILIPPINE MINING CO. INC. Unit 3102 Sunset Area Tower Condominium, #5201 Roxas Blvd., Pasay City	Zhongdong Feng Chinese	Purchasing Officer

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned application/s please communicate with this Regional Director.

ATTY. ALAN S. MACARTEY, CESO III
Regional Director

GUEDON I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

SECOND INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

WE HAVE MOVED!!!

The Philippine Daily Inquirer Kalayaan office (Circulation Department & Classified Ads Manila branches) has transferred to Unit 1002, Velson Electric Building, A.S. Salgado corner B.B. dela Rio, South Harbour, Binalay - near Bureau of Customs and Gate 4 of Philippine Ports Authority. Our new telephone numbers are 8082413, 8228870 and fax number 8082204.

LOCATION MAP

NOTICE OF ANNUAL REGULAR MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND ELECTION

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 30, 2013

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
No. 2013 – 0003
SUBJECT : Policy, Rules and Regulations Governing the Licensing and Accreditation of Hemodialysis Facilities in the Philippines

I. RATIONALE/BACKGROUND

The Philippine Renal Disease Registry (PRDR) Annual Report for 2011 revealed that of the total Incidence cases reported in the year (3,112 patients that received dialysis in 2011 or 1,105 per million) patients were on hemodialysis (HD) and 183 (5%) patients on peritoneal dialysis (PD). There was an 8.6% increase in the number of patients on dialysis from 3,022 in 2009 to 3,112 in 2011.

A listing of dialysis providers in 2011 as reported by the Renal Disease Control Program (RDCP) of the Department of Health (DOH) showed a total of 54 facilities with 1,000 dialysis machines. Out of these machines, 41 (76%) belonged to the private sector which operated approximately 24 hours a day, six days a week. Only 13 machines (24%) belonged to the government sector or approximately 8 hours a day, six days a week. Most of the machines in the government sector were donated by various international donors and non-government organizations. Many of these machines are old, outdated, and sometimes non-functional. Due to the limited number of machines in the government sector, many patients are forced to undergo dialysis in the private sector where the cost is relatively higher. Many patients are unable to afford the cost of dialysis in the private sector.

Current regulatory issuances on this matter intend to be enhanced and updated in order to address the gaps that have been noted during the years. The DOH has a unified Administrative Order (A.O.) No. 152 s. 2004 entitled "Revised Rules and Regulations Governing the Licensing and Accreditation of Dialysis Clinics in the Philippines" and A.O. No. 2008 – 0007 on Reclassification of this same. This Office therefore sees necessity in aligning with the objectives of health regulatory reforms to ensure access to safe, quality and affordable health facilities and dialysis services.

II. OBJECTIVE

The Order is promulgated to prescribe a minimum minimum standard for HEC-hemodialysis and dialysis HD treatments.

III. SCOPE

This Order shall apply to all government and private HEC in the Philippines, except where PD is also performed in an HEC. DOH-hospital (DOH) shall endorse Hemodialysis accreditation standards and requirements as PD.

IV. DEFINITION OF TERMS

For purposes of this Order, the succeeding terms are defined herein and shall have the following definitions:

1. Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI) – an organization which promotes knowledge and use of medical instrumentation. It holds standards, education and certification programs, and publishes technical information. Many medical device guidelines, like Recommended Practices and Standards are considered to be a major resource in healthcare guidelines and recommendations with these standards in effect by regulatory organizations like that support health care facilities.
2. Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) – a group of interventions aimed to treat and stabilize cardiac arrest, respiratory arrest, cardiac emergencies and to resuscitate victims of cardiac arrest. It also refers to a training course recognized by the American Heart Association that instructs healthcare providers on the basic and advanced techniques of resuscitation.
3. Adverse Event – injury caused by medical management (and not necessarily the disease process) that either required death, prolonged hospitalization, or produced a disability at the time of discharge.
4. Applicant – a natural or juridical person who is applying for a license to operate an HEC.
5. Bureau of Health Facilities and Services (BHFS) – the regulatory body of DOH charged with the licensing function under these rules and regulations.
6. Board Certified Physician – a physician who is a Diplomate and/or a Fellow of a medical specialty and subspecialty, duly recognized and by the Philippine Medical Association and certified to by the corresponding medical specialty and/or subspecialty board.
7. Branch (Satellite Dialysis Unit) – a physician who finishes or completed an accredited medical specialty training, subspecialty training/fellowship training program which had been approved by the corresponding medical specialty and/or subspecialty board.
8. Center for Health Development (CHD) – the regional office of DOH.
9. Certificate of Completion (COC) – the certificate issued by HEC/CME upon the completion of HEC-TU training and accreditation by PRDR. It is issued by PRDR/DOH as a participating dialysis unit to a physician in accordance to this.
10. Dialysis – is a process by which dissolved substances are removed from a patient's body by different than one fluid into another by another process across semi-permeable membrane. It is a medical procedure using dialysis machine to remove waste products and excess water from the blood.
11. Dialysis Station – a designated portion of HEC that accommodates the necessary and equipment necessary to provide HD. This station has a minimum area of 20 square m and is capable of accommodating a dialysis chair or patient bed, a dialysis machine and emergency equipment and should be isolated if safety.
12. Department of Health (DOH).
13. Department of Health – Electronic Disease Surveillance System (DOH-EDSS) – created by DOH through DOH A.O. as applicable who will coordinate and operate an HEC disease surveillance system integrated management and utilize Cases and data to the optimal implementation of the related Health. DOH-EDSS is also intended to make web-based database, dissemination of information, or increase in the number of the diseases. It is the Philippine Health Office.
14. Exit Block Renal Disease (ESRD) – is how outlined kidney non-recovery with Stage 5 Chronic Kidney Disease, a chronic illness with poor life expectancy if untreated. It is treated by dialysis or kidney transplant at the kidney's discretion.
15. Hemodialysis (HD) – is a medical procedure whereby the patient's blood is removed by a machine to artificial kidney (HD) to perform metabolic waste and excess blood and electrolyte balance.
16. Hemodialysis Daily (HDD) – the list of DOH-licensed HEC is posted in DOH website www.doh.gov.ph.
17. Licensed To Operate (LTO) – a formal authority issued by DOH to an individual, agency, partnership or corporation to operate a non-hospital based HEC.
18. One Day Stay (ODS) – a strategy of DOH to lead into the treatment of hospitals, their ancillary and other facilities including, but not limited to, HEC, to reduce the cost from HEC. Dialysis, a medical HEC, is not required to access a separate LTO. The provision of THE is a baseline shall be addressed in the hospital's HEC accreditation or the HEC.
19. Peritoneal Dialysis (PD) – a means of dialysis using the peritoneum as a dialysis membrane.
20. Physician On Duty (POD) – the Physician On Duty on an HEC.
21. Patient – refers to a person who is receiving dialysis care in an HEC.
22. Patient Medical Record – a compilation of pertinent facts about a patient's life and health history including past and current illnesses and treatments written by health care professionals caring for this patient.
23. Philippine Renal Disease Registry (PRDR) – a compilation of data of all dialysis patients in the country. It was institutionalized under the National Epidemiology Center of DOH. It is also known as the PRDR.
24. Renal Disease Control Program (RDCP) – the National Kidney Transplant Institute (NKTI) of DOH is the main implementing agency of RDCP. The Renal Disease Control Program envisions all facets of renal disease prevention (health promotion, primary, secondary, tertiary prevention including prevention of death of ESRD patients through transplantation) and organ donation by collaborating, advocating, implementing projects and activities on research, training, advocacy, service and quality assurance.
25. Refurbished HD Machine – a pre-owned HD machine used back to the supplier with capability to recondition and calibrate the unit to specifications and with renewed warranty and parts.
26. Reverse Osmosis (RO) – a filtration method that removes many types of large molecules and ions from solutions by applying pressure to the solution when one side of a selective membrane. The resulting solution has the solute removed on the pressurized side of the membrane and the pure solvent is allowed to pass to the other side. It represents the ultimate dialysis treatment.
27. Water Treatment – the process of treating water used for HD sessions in order to maintain a continuous water supply that meets the provisions of AAMI "Standards for Water for Hemodialysis".

V. POLICIES

A. GENERAL POLICIES

1. Hemodialysis (HD) shall be performed only in DOH licensed and accredited dialysis HEC and hospitals that request HEC under the One Day Stay Insurance System for hospitals.
2. In Peritoneal dialysis (PD) is being performed in facilities regulated by DOH such as, but not limited to, hospitals and RHU, DOH shall administer Philhealth accreditation standards and requirements as PD.
3. All HEC shall participate in PRDR. All patients on HD shall be registered by these facilities to PRDR.
4. All HEC shall have a continuing patient education program that updates patients on developments and new dialysis therapies.
5. All HEC shall have linkages with DOH accredited kidney transplant centers.
6. All HEC shall follow the standards, criteria and requirements prescribed in the assessment tool for licensure of HEC.
7. All HEC shall follow this Order and other related and future issuances by DOH.

B. SPECIFIC POLICIES

1. CLASSIFICATION OF DIALYSIS FACILITIES

a. ACCORDING TO OWNERSHIP

i. Government – operated and maintained (owned) or wholly by the national government, a local government unit, government-controlled corporation, or instrumentality, and other political unit or any department, bureau, board or agency thereof.
ii. Private – owned, established and operated with funds through donations, personal investments or other means by any individual, corporation, association or organization.

b. ACCORDING TO SCOPE OF SERVICES/CHARACTER

i. Hospital based – a dialysis facility that operates within a hospital.
ii. Non-hospital based – a dialysis facility that operates outside of the hospital premises or on its own.

2. STANDARDS

Every HEC shall be operated to provide safe, quality dialysis and affordable services.

a. PERSONNEL

Every HEC shall have an adequate number of qualified, trained and competent staff to render efficient and effective dialysis (HD) services. The staff complement will depend on the workload and the services being provided.

i. Staff complement

a. Every HEC shall have a Medical Director who is duly licensed by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) and preferably is a nephrologist certified by the specialty Board of either Philippine Society of Nephrology (PSN), the Philippine Society of Internal Medicine (PSIM) or equivalent. DOH shall be updated on all its board certified members.

b. The Medical Director shall be responsible for the following:

1. Overseeing the overall technical and medical operations of the HEC;
2. Train all their HD medical procedures are done in accordance with acceptable norms and standards of medical practice;
3. Develop and implement policies and procedures, policies and procedures on dialysis and transfer treatment in accordance with the standards established by DOH and in accordance with the Philippine Medical Association National;
4. Train, supervise/train, an education and performance and as for medical staff including hiring of the nurses;
5. Prepare/review programs for HEC staff for justification, recruitment, appointment of staff, and dismissals;
6. Oversee the conduct and compliance of quality within HEC;
7. Initiate, research and implement new Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement (QAPI) activities;
8. Ensure strict compliance to infection control and sanitation practices;
9. Ensure safety and safety hazard on the workplace of AAMI including functions listed to the following:
   a. Ensures programs and policies to minimize safe chemical and dialysates.
   b. Ensures monitoring of safe water regulations and specifications.
   c. Ensures that the manufacturer or supplier of a complete water treatment and distribution system demonstrates that the complete water treatment, storage and distribution system is capable of meeting applicable requirements at the time of installation.
c. Whenever a physician is not readily available for the position of Medical Director, BHFS/DOH must allow the Medical Director to designate from the PRC to order monitor.
   i. Board eligible requirements:
   ii. Board certified in Internal Medicine (IM) – a Diplomate with valid re-registration in any DOH licensed HEC for at least three consecutive years.
   iii. Board eligible/not yet certified in IM with valid re-registration in any DOH licensed HEC for at least three consecutive years.
   iv. Board eligible in IM or Pediatrics with work experience in any DOH licensed HEC for at least three consecutive years.
   v. Board eligible in IM or Pediatrics with work experience in any DOH licensed HEC for at least six (6) months.
   vi. General practitioner with work experience in any DOH licensed HEC for at least six (6) months.
   vii. Not experienced in the care of patients with ESRD.
   viii. Has completed training in ACLS.
   ix. Has completed training in care of patients with ESRD.
d. The Medical Director shall visit HEC at least once a week. The visit of HEC shall have to be documented.
e. The Medical Director shall handle a maximum of sixty three (60) HD.

ii. Physician On Duty (POD)

a. The qualifications, duties and responsibilities of HEC POD shall be determined by the following:
   i. Attends to patients under HEC under the supervision of the Medical Director.
   ii. Duties assigned by HEC prof.
      a. Board certified in nephrology or
      b. Board eligible in nephrology or
      c. Board certified in IM or Pediatrics with work experience in any DOH licensed HEC for at least three (3) months or
      d. Board eligible in IM or Pediatrics with work experience in any DOH licensed HEC for at least three (3) months or
      e. Undergoing an accredited residency training program in IM or Pediatrics simultaneously for three (3) months or
      f. General practitioner with work experience in any DOH licensed HEC for at least six (6) months.
   iii. Has experience in the care of patients with ESRD.
   iv. Has completed training in ACLS.
   v. Has completed training in care of patients with ESRD.
b. The ratio of POD to the number of HD patient stations shall not be more than 1:10.

iii. Nurse

a. The duties and responsibilities of HEC nurse are, but not limited to, the following:
   i. Provides direct care to patients undergoing HD based on the rules and regulations established by BQH and approved company policies and procedures;
   ii. Checks and prepares all materials needed and ensures it is available before the start of dialysis;
   iii. Reads and carries out doctors' orders and ensures that medical documentation is complete;
   iv. Assesses patient using the nursing process before, during and after dialysis;
   v. Inspects, operates, maintains and monitors all machines and equipment;
   vi. Prepares patients' access using the required aseptic technique and safety precautions;
   vii. Communicates with the doctor regarding identified patient problems and initiates interventions for the cases;
   viii. Administers medications as ordered and prescribed by doctors from cases;
   ix. Performs routines and records pre-, intra- and post-dialysis treatment vital signs;
   x. Maintains accurate and complete documentation (CPR) at the point of dialysis and/or administration and ensures that all entries are signed and dated and recorded;
   xi. Initiates patient's activities during and after every dialysis session;
   xii. Coordinates in unit machines and ward clients at the end of every shift;
   xiii. Performs other non-routine, hazards and potential situations;
   xiv. Observes the time of commencement and duration of each treatment, and any complications occurring, recording and communicating information or data;
   xv. Provides information and health education to patients and significant others regarding the plan of care;
   xvi. The nurse shall be duly licensed by PRC in accordance with R.A. No. 9173 known as the Philippine Nursing Act of 2002;
   xvii. The nurse shall have a certificate of training in the dialysis unit of renal dialysis patients from competent training accredited;
   xviii. The nurse shall have a certificate of training in basic life support (BLS) – cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) at the level of cardiac and/or pulmonary arrest/cardiac and/or pulmonary emergencies.
   xix. Every HEC shall have at least one nurse but shall with an additional nurse for every ten (10) HD patients/per shift/per in a physician's specifications.
   xx. The ratio is not to the number of HD patient stations shall not be more than 1:3.

iv. Dialysis technician

The duties and responsibilities of a dialysis technician are, but not limited to, the following:

a. Responsible technician/assistant care:
   i. Patency to prepares dialysate and dialysis train according to protocol;
   ii. Prepares, rinses, disinfects dialysis machines prior to treatment;
   iii. Calibrates operating machines at the start of the treatment session;
   iv. Collects all used dialysate in the dialysis area in accordance with technological to prevention and control of spillage and contamination;
   v. Performs supervising should dialysis;
   vi. Monitors recommended dialysate for acceptability;
   vii. Labels discarded dialysate properly;
   viii. Records dialysis to any number in the flow sheet;
   ix. Does recommend dialysate to be used;
   x. Conducts preventive maintenance of HD machines, monitors repairs and monitoring of unscheduled problems.
   xi. Assists the nurse with pre- and post dialysis patient assessment/care of the patient during dialysis, and assist in an emergency operational procedures and in performing basic BHA measures during cardiac and/or pulmonary arrest;
   xii. Delivers complete and patient and conforms duties as may be delegated from time to time.

3. PHYSICAL FACILITIES

a. Every HEC shall have adequate physical facilities with adequate space to provide the AAMI, DOH/PRDR and HEC standards.

i. Every HEC shall conform to applicable local and national regulations for the construction, renovation, maintenance and repair of the same.

ii. Every HEC shall be subject to the required grace for the conduct of its activities depending on its workload and the services being provided.

iii. Every HEC shall have an approved plan in PCC in accordance with the standards and design guidelines prepared by DOH through BHFS posted at DOH website www.doh.gov.ph. **Annex A – Standard Design Guidelines for Hemodialysis Units and Annex B – Proposed Preliminary Plan of an HEC.** The floor plan of the dialysis facility shall be prepared by a licensed and/or certified medical engineer and shall contain the following areas listed below:

   a. DIALYSIS UNIT/SERVICES COMPLEX

      i. HD Station

         a. Each HD station shall not be less than two (2) meters by three (3) meters to accommodate a dialysis chair or bed, a dialysis machine and emergency equipment. When isolation Precautions is provided, shall be with adequate space to allow for movement necessary for patient care.
         b. Each HD station shall have cleaned conditioned cubicle.
         c. Each HD station shall have water line for connection of treatment water in the individual dialysis machine.

      ii. Water Treatment Room

         a. The water treatment design shall follow the provisions stipulated in Section V. B. 2. c. of this Order under policies on equipment and supplies to ensure the safety and quality of dialysis treatment.

      iii. Dialysate Reprocessing Area/Room (only for HEC that do process)

      iv. Supply Storage Room

         Every HEC shall provide a supply storage cabinets for needle and catheter/tubing sets and other materials and supplies.

      v. Nurses Station Area

         Every HEC shall provide for the following capacity (min):

         a. Patient holding cubicle/area
         b. Toilet/shower cubicle/area
         c. Nurses station
         d. Emergency operation room area.

   b. NON-HEMODIALYSIS AREAS OR RELIEF FROM AREAS SECTIONS

      i. Reception Office

         a. Every HEC shall provide a reception information counter extending area, patient's area (for non-hospital based HEC), waiting area for non-hospital based HEC, consultation counter and a doctor's consultation cubicle for the Medical Director.
         b. Every HEC shall provide a room for storage and preparation of medical records.

      ii. Waiting Area

         Every HEC shall provide enough seats for patients and visitors.

      iii. Toilet Facility

         a. Every non-hospital based HEC shall provide a toilet facility with sitting water closet and shower for patients and their visitors.
         b. Every non-hospital based HEC shall provide a toilet facility.

      iv. Staff Facility at Renal Room

         Every HEC shall provide an extra area, a locker with and locker and dressing room with toilet for staff use.

4. EQUIPMENT AND INSTRUMENTS/SUPPLIES

Every HEC shall have available and maintained equipment, instruments, materials and supplies for HD procedure to be provided.

i. Every HEC shall be adequately equipped and the following to provide quality services to HD patients:

   a. HD Station and Nurse's Station

      i. HD Equipment (minimum basic, date of acquisition and quantity):

         All HD machines shall use bicarbonate to buffer. There shall be at least one (1) HD machine available for patients with hepatitis B or HIV/AIDS. Otherwise, patients preferred to have hepatitis B shall be referred to a bigger HEC with dedicated isolation rooms.

         a. Ten year rule: New machines and refurbished machines with known manufacturing dates shall be allowed to be used for ten years. Any machine which is not more than 10 years or 20,000 maximum hours considered is 10,000 maximum refurbished hours rule.
         b. Machines acquired (second) from or sending refurbished machines with known manufacturing dates which are allowed to be used for ten years as per (a). These refurbished machines shall be shall be tested annually.
         c. Acquisition of refurbished machines shall not be allowed for more than ten years. Any machine which is not more than 10 years or 20,000 maximum hours considered is 10,000 maximum refurbished hours rule.

      ii. Every HEC shall provide dialysis chair/bed capable of full recline and trendelenburg position or patient beds with guard rails (60 cm x 70 cm) at HD stations.

      iii. Every HEC shall provide each unit with the following basic medication equipment/supplies:

         a. Basic Medications
            1. Bi-carbonate injection – bottle/vial
            2. Dialysis (Liquid 500ml bottle/each way)
            3. Dialysis (Liquid 500ml bottle/each way)
            4. Heparin (10 mg/ml/vial)
            5. Lidocaine 1 mg/ml ampoule (1ml/ampoule)
            6. Normal Saline (Sodium Chloride) 0.9% (100ml/bottle)
            7. Dextrose 5% (100ml/bottle) (Dextrose 10 mg/ml) (Dextrose 50mg/ml/ampoule)
            8. Calcium Gluconate (calcium gluconate) 10 mg/ml/ampoule (1 ampoule)
            9. Dextrose 50% (50 mg/ml/ampoule)
            10. Epinephrine (1 mg/ml/ampoule)
            11. Atropine (0.5 mg/ml/ampoule)
            12. Dopamine (200 mg/vial (5 ml/vial))
            13. Dobutamine (250 mg/vial (5 ml/vial))
            14. Hydrocortisone (100 mg/vial (2 ml/vial))
            15. Furosemide (20 mg/vial (2 ml/vial))
            16. Mannitol (20 g/vial (100 ml/vial))
            17. Salbutamol (5 mg/ml (1 ml/vial))
            18. Aminophylline (250 mg/vial (10 ml/vial))
            19. Ranitidine (50 mg/vial (2 ml/vial))
            20. Diazepam (10 mg/vial (2 ml/vial))
            21. Phenobarbital (100 mg/vial (2 ml/vial))
            22. Phenytoin (250 mg/vial (5 ml/vial))
            23. Paracetamol (500 mg/ampoule (1 ml/ampoule))
            24. Pharmacological or herbal preparation (if applicable) (if applicable)
            25. Iron (50 mg/ml (1 ml/vial))
            26. Folic Acid (5 mg/vial (1 ml/vial))
            27. Sodium Bicarbonate for Infusion (ampoule (1 ml/ampoule))
            28. Erythropoietin (10 mg/ml/vial (1 ml/vial))
            29. Vitamin B1 (100 mg/ml/vial (2 ml/vial))

a. Basic Equipment
1. Airway adjuncts (orotracheal and nasotracheal airways)
2. Assortment of:
a. Magill-type intubation forceps (adult and pediatric/child sizes) Fig 1 – 4)
b. Laryngoscope (adult set)
3. Portable suction machine or its equivalent for removal of laryngeal and other tracheobronchial foreign
4. Stethoscope
5. Cervical collar
6. Cervical POP splint
7. Defibrillator (with cardiac monitor and/or pacemaker functions)
8. Nebulizer (ventilator/manual resuscitator) set
9. Different sizes of face (to include a pediatric/child face) mask
10. Thermometers
11. Pulse oximeter (finger tips and gauntlets)
12. Foley catheter
13. Intravenous (IV) sets
14. Macrodrip tubing, 3 sets
15. Minor surgical set
a. Curved Mayo scissors, 6 inches
b. Metzenbaum scissors, 6 inches
c. Scalpel handle with blades
d. Mosquito hemostat, 5 inches
e. Mosquito forceps, curved
f. Allis tissue forceps, 6 inches
g. Straight Kocher forceps
h. Curved Kocher forceps
i. Needle holders with needles
j. Tissue forceps without teeth
16. Nebulizer
17. Oxygen tank (with gauge and humidifier)
18. Intubating laryngoscope
19. Portable suction device (with suction catheter)
20. Chest catheter
21. Nasogastric (stool) sugar water (Glucometer with strips)
22. Syringe (manual) infusion (non-manual)
23. Defibrillator
24. Medicines and syringes (prefilled type and freeze type anesthetics)
25. Thermometers (non-mercurial)
26. Water-proof aprons
27. Waterproof boots

b. Work Supplies
1. Alcohol disinfectant
2. Aseptic body sponge
3. Health bandages (3 different sizes)
4. Gloves (examination and sterile gloves)
5. Hydrogen peroxide solution
6. Metal utensils
7. Nasogastric tube
8. Oxygen tubing
9. Povidone iodine (wound and cleaning solutions)
10. Protective face shield or mask
11. Sterile face towel
12. Sterile gauze
13. Syringes
14. Urethral catheter

c. Water Treatment Area
1. The typical arrangement of a water treatment system is as follows:
a. Raw water
b. Conventional sand filters
c. Softener
d. Carbon filter
e. Conventional sand filters
f. Reverse Osmosis (RO)
g. Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) meter
h. Plumbing system – delivery (treated water to the individual dialysis machines). There are generally two (2) types of plumbing systems.
1. Direct feed single pass (no system provide below 5 MT cub.cm);
2. Holding tank set-up or RO system with storage tank provide results of RO (above)
3. Every HDC shall have written policies and procedures for storage of water and the appropriate disinfection schedule.

d. Dialyzer Reprocessing Machine (wherever applicable)

e. Support Area
Every HDC shall provide a standby generator (not less than 40 chair) appropriate to the size of the facility.

f. Business Office
Every HDC shall provide the following:
1. A computer with internet connection (to include hardware and software for PHIC);
2. An ambulance or transport vehicle or other proof of contract with providers of ambulance services.

4. There shall be a preventive maintenance and repair program for equipment.

5. There shall be a contingency plan in case of equipment breakdown.

a. SERVICE DELIVERY
Every HDC shall ensure that the services delivered is geared to one of the desired quality.
1. Every HDC shall have designated Quality Assurance Personnel (QAP) for the provision of HD services and for the operation and maintenance of the facility.
2. Every HDC shall have documented technical policies and procedures for the services being provided in the facility to ensure quality of services rendered to HD patients. These shall be policies and procedures on, but not limited to, the following:
a. HD treatment protocol;
b. Maintenance of dialyzers (only for HDC that is provided);
c. Treatment of water for HD;
d. Prevention and control of hepatitis and other infections;
e. Management of complications;
f. Disinfection techniques;
g. Management of infectious wastes;
h. Patient referral and/or transfer to another facility.
3. The management of HDC shall ensure that blood comes from voluntary blood centers or authorized blood stations.
a. Blood shall be obtained only from DOH-accredited blood centers or the Philippine Red Cross.
b. A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) shall be entered into with hospital-based facilities of blood donations and with volunteer donors.

a. QUALITY IMPROVEMENT (QI) ACTIVITIES
Every HDC shall establish and maintain a system for continuous quality improvement activities.
1. Each HD shall have a Medical Director who is trained in Quality Assurance Programs (QAP) and continuous quality improvement.
2. The Quality Assurance Program shall have a written plan and be implemented and shall be continuous and periodic reviews.

b. INFORMATION MANAGEMENT
Every HDC shall maintain a record system to provide readily available information on each patient.
1. Contents of Medical Records
Each HDC shall maintain complete medical records of all patients within the facility, including those patients administering self-care.
All current files shall be kept on the nurses station and shall be placed in the patient's file folder once completed. Each patient record shall be kept confidential and shall contain sufficient information to identify the patient and to justify the diagnosis and treatment. The right of the patient to obtain records of treatment and other relevant medical information shall be observed. Current medical records and materials shall be maintained to the following:
a. Summary to face sheet with patient identification data, diagnosis, physician's name and phone number, family member to be contacted in case of emergency and phone number, patient's address and phone number, date of admission;
b. Doctor orders: Standing orders shall be updated on least semi annually and as deemed necessary;
c. Delivery charts with properly filled out data sheet;
d. Laboratory and x-ray reports;
e. Anesthesia history and physical examination records;
f. Clinical and graphic record of patient's vital signs;
g. Medication record;
h. Nursing assessments, updates and progress notes;
i. Consultations, notes/reports;
j. Nurse's progress notes each time of dialysis;
k. Patient Bill;
l. Discharge sheet;
m. Informed consent, updated at least annually (and as deemed necessary);
n. Records of transfer/referral of patient to another health facility;
o. Advance Directive (if any);
p. Documentation on patient education;
q. Dialysis profile. Dialysis profile of patient's monthly profile on every menstruation.
r. Patient's termination status. The following information are highly recommended:
i. Results of routine blood examination at 0, 1, 4 months. Routine post-termination testing thirty (30) days after the last dose;
ii. Infection control each annually;
iii. Psychosocial examination every two (2) years.

c. Comprehensive patient charts (above) shall include, but is not limited to, the following: **(Annex C – DOH-HDC Yoghurab following DOH format contract of DOH retention)**
i. Medical examinations and consent to undergo hemodialysis (HD);
ii. Medical certificate that resulted in admission to the hospital of the patient following HD treatment;
iii. Medical consultations that resulted in search of consent during or immediately after HD;
iv. Consultations related to HD complications;
v. Consultations related to HD treatment;
vi. Consultations made for clinical records;
vii. Complications related to disease;
viii. Death note;
ix. Death;
x. Changed to another treatment modality;
xi. Kidney transplant;
xii. Lost to follow-up;
xiii. Refused HD treatment.

d. NEPHROCAP patient registry form
Every HDC shall register their patients in PHIC's NEPHROCAP registry. Only PHIC-accredited HDC shall register their patients in NEPHROCAP. Existing patients (new or upon HDC entry) the required forms from NEPHROCAP. Incoming dialysis forms shall be submitted to NEPHROCAP relative thereto.

e. Administrative records
Every HDC shall maintain the following administrative records:
a. Minutes of meeting;
b. Schedule of meeting;
c. 201 staff files (includes appointment orders of staff);
d. Policies/rules such as, but not limited to the following are highly recommended:
i. Results of vaccination on 0, 1, 4 months. Routine post-termination testing thirty (30) days after the last dose;
ii. Infection prevention annually;
iii. Psychosocial examination every five (5) years.
e. Report's on HDC inspection and monitoring activities.

f. Technical recommendation
Every HDC shall maintain the following technical records:
a. Records of plumbing disinfection and water analysis results;
b. Logbook/schedule on effluent/machine tests (HD machines);
c. Inventory card of each HD machine to determine the dates of maintenance, acquisition and disposal;
d. Schedule of calibration of HD machines equipment;
e. Logbook/records of preventive and corrective maintenance of HD machines' equipment.

g. All HDC shall submit (data/information as may be required by DOH through PHIC) for purposes of research, development, training and/or accreditation purposes.

h. Retention and disposal of records and other relevant information (written, paper-based or electronic) should shall be in accordance with the records retention schedule by PHIC.

a. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
Every HDC shall ensure that the environment is safe for its patients and staff and that the following measures to prevent spread of infection are observed:
1. There shall be wall ventilated, lighted, clean, safe and functional water basin in the services provided.
2. There shall be encouragement of proper maintenance and monitoring of physical facilities.
3. Waste segregation for proper disposal and elimination of infectious and chemical wastes (reusable, possibly and safely of water) shall be observed.
4. The water for HD services shall be treated accordingly to maintain a continuous water supply that is adequately and chemically compatible with acceptable HD techniques. Periodic water analysis for bacteriological and chemical tests at three (3) sampling points shall be done:
a. Raw water analysis;
b. Product water analysis;
c. Point of use water analysis.
5. The components of water analysis are listed below: **(List of laboratories capable of conducting microbiological and chemical analyses of water in HDC or product which satisfactory)**
a. Microbiological analysis shall be done at least every month and as often as necessary following any change in the water treatment that interfere with microbiological control.
b. Chemical analysis shall be done at least every six (6) months and as deemed necessary following SAM Standards for Water Treatment Equipment. The chemicals to be analyzed are:

CONTAMINANT	MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE CONCENTRATION (MCL)
Aluminum	0.01
Arsenic	0.005
Barium	1.0
Cadmium	0.001
Chromium	0.014
Copper	0.1
Fluoride	0.2
Lead	0.005
Mercury	0.0002
Nitrates	10
Selenium	0.09
Silver	0.005
Sodium	70
Zinc	0.1

c. Chemical analysis of water at two (2) operating points, namely: product water and point of use, may be obtained at HDC's discretion if HDC provided there is no change in location. The frequency of analysis shall be every six (6) months and as often as needed.

6. Each HDC shall keep a record of planning, system installation, disinfection, operation and maintenance. The schedule shall be made by the technical water expert and to have quarterly and whenever microbiological counts reach 50 cfu/ml (the acceptable limit).
a. Chemical disinfection;
b. Heat disinfection;
c. Ozone disinfection.

7. There shall be a protocol for the proper disposal of infectious wastes and toxic and hazardous substances and for the water shall be made in accordance with R.A. 6969 and other related policy guidelines and/or issuances.

8. Each HDC shall establish and maintain a system for proper liquid waste management which shall be in accordance with the revised DOH Manual on Health Care Waste Management and other DAO–RENR policy guidelines and/or issuances.
a. Trash shall be accumulated only within the same shall be strictly enforced.
b. There shall be a contingency plan in case of accidents and emergencies.

a. Trash HDC shall establish and maintain a system for proper liquid waste management which shall be in accordance with the revised DOH Manual on Health Care Waste Management and other DAO–RENR policy guidelines and/or issuances.
d. There shall be accumulation/pooling within the same shall be strictly enforced.
e. There shall be a contingency plan in case of accidents and emergencies.

III. PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES

A. APPLICATION FOR DOH-PTC

1. The following are the required documents to be accomplished and submitted to DOH-Licensing DOH-PTC can be issued by an applicant at an HDC:
a. One accomplished application form
b. Proof of registration with:
1. Department of Trade and Industry;
2. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) (Registration with Articles of Incorporation);
3. Existing mayor's permit (for government);
4. Cooperative Development Authority Registration with Articles of Incorporation/Bylaws.
c. Three sets of architectural floor plans signed and sealed by an architect and/or engineer. The floor plan shall be in accordance with Section 5 to 8 of the Implementing Rules of this Order.
d. Feasibility study demonstrating the need to establish an HDC within proposed site.
e. The applicant shall accomplish the application form and required documents and shall submit them to BHFS. Upon filing of complete documents, the applicant shall pay the corresponding DOH cashier (cashier) or through postal money order.
f. The Bureau of Health Facilities and Services through the Health Facility Evaluation Board Review Committee shall review and evaluate the submitted plans and documents at the proponent's HDC with respect to basic requirements and with the prescribed standards and policy and technical guidelines in the planning and design of each HDC.
g. The Bureau of Health Facilities and Services shall approve or disapprove the application for a DOH-PTC. If disapproved, it shall inform the proponent together with the findings and recommendations in the application. The applicant shall make the necessary revisions on the deficiencies and shall submit the revised documents to BHFS for another review. The applicant shall be entitled to only one revision.
h. The Bureau of Health Facilities and Services shall issue a DOH-PTC to the applicant upon approval of the canvas.

B. APPLICATION FOR INITIAL LTO

1. Applicants can acquire the prescribed application form for LTO in BHFS's DOH-LICENSING website (www.doh.gov.ph).
2. The duly accomplished form together with the necessary attachments such as, but not limited to, list of personnel, list of equipment and other relevant records shall be submitted to BHFS.
3. All hospitals and HDC shall comply with DOH Licensure System Framework under A.O. No. 2007 – 0021 re, "Implementing Rules and Regulations Governing Hospitals" A.O. No. 20 10 – 0030 re: "The Administration of the Association of Philippine Hospitals" A.O. No. 2010 – 0033 re: "Guidelines for Hospitals (LTO) for All New Hospitals and Renewal of LTO for Existing Hospitals" and "Guidelines for Hospitals" for related references and this Order.
4. All nonhospital based HDC shall follow CHD Licensure Packet for non-hospital based HDC in accordance with A.O. No. 2008 – 0027 re: "Omnibus Rules Governing the Regulation of Non-Hospital Based Dialysis Clinics." for related resources and this Order.

C. APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF LTO

1. The Center for Health Development shall collect the renewal of LTO for Level 1 and Level 2 hospitals based HDC following CHD Licensure System for Hospitals.
2. The Bureau of Health Facilities and Services shall collect the renewal of LTO of Level 3 hospitals based HDC and Non-Hospital Based HDC following CHD Licensure System for Hospitals.
3. Every HDC shall submit proof of participation in PNHRR.
4. The License to Operate of an HDC shall be considered automatically revoked and cancelled, for failure to submit valid accreditation certificate and failure to pass the prescribed within thirty (30) calendar days after the expiration of the validity of the certificate. The HDC shall cease its operation and apply for a re-certified LTO following Section VI B. Application for Initial LTO of this Order.

D. INSPECTION

1. The Bureau of Health Facilities and Services or CHD, as the case may be, shall conduct licensure inspection utilizing the assessment tool, at any reasonable time.
2. The applicant must ensure that all key staff, pertinent records, premises and facilities are made available to BHFS/CHD Director and/or his authorized representative during inspection visits.

E. MONITORING

1. Every HDC shall be monitored regularly.
2. The Bureau of Health Facilities and Services or CHD Director and/or his authorized representative(s) shall conduct announced/unannounced monitoring visits utilizing the assessment tool, at any reasonable time.
3. Every HDC shall ensure that all key staff, records, premises and facilities are made available to BHFS or CHD Director and/or his authorized representative(s) during monitoring visits.
4. A notice of violation for non-compliant HDC shall be issued immediately after monitoring visit.
5. The respective HDC shall submit a post annual summary of violations to BHFS stating the name of HDC, location, its corresponding violation and the manner of action taken.

IV. SCHEDULE OF FEES

a. Annual renewal fee shall be charged for application of LTO by HDC.
b. All assessment shall be paid to the order of DOH in person or through postal money order.
c. All fees, surcharges and discounts shall follow the current DOH prescribed schedule of fees (A.O. No. 1997 – 0021-A "Schedule of Fees for Drug Dealer Drug Licensure System for Hospitals" A.O. No. 2008 – 0030 re: "Schedule of Fees for Drug Dealer Drug Licensure System for Hospitals" A.O. No. 2008 – 0031 re: "Schedule of Fees for Drug Dealer Drug Licensure System for Hospitals" A.O. No. 2008 – 0027 re: "Omnibus Rules Governing the Regulation of Non-Hospital Based Dialysis Clinics." and A.O. No. 2009 – 0001 re: "Revised Schedule of Fees for Hygiene Services Rendered by the Bureau of Health Facilities and Services and Centers for Health Development").

V. VALIDITY OF LTO

The License to Operate shall be valid for three (3) years from the date of issuance, unless revoked or suspended by the Secretary of Health. Hospital based HDC and Nonhospital based HDC (Licensure System for Hospitals based HDC).

VI. VIOLATIONS

Facilities found violating any provision of these rules and regulations and its implementing guidelines, upon recommendation of duly authorized representative, shall be subject to the following administrative sanctions: With notice the authority shall be pursued/complete for LTO suspension or revocation. The guidelines on violations shall be in accordance with A.O. No. 2009 – 0002 re: "Implementing Guidelines on the Operation of Hospitals and Other Health Facilities Under the Five-Step Compliance Framework" A.O. No. 2008 – 0027 re: "Omnibus Rules Governing the Regulation of Non-Hospital Based Dialysis Clinics." and A.O. No. 10 re: Validation Criteria for Hospitals (CHD).

VII. INVESTIGATION OF CHARGES AND COMPLAINTS

a. The Bureau of Health Facilities and Services or CHD Director and/or his authorized representative(s) shall investigate the complaint and notify the HDC in writing of its decision on complaint (no complaint signed or anonymous).
b. The Bureau of Health Facilities and Services or CHD Director and/or his authorized representative(s) after investigation may conduct hearings in accordance with Omnibus Rules governing the procedures of the Office and/or Section 16 of Executive Order creating the procedures of the Office and/or Section 16 of Executive Order creating the procedures of the Office and/or Section 16 of Executive Order creating

TRANSMISSION LINE AND SUBSTATION PROJECTS PLANNED FOR PROCUREMENT BY NGCP

The **NATIONAL GRID CORPORATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (NGCP)** invites manufacturers, contractors and suppliers to apply for accreditation for the following projects planned for procurement for CY 2012:

1. Northeastern Transmission Development Project (Reppatt Capacitor)
2. San Esteban-Laoag 230kV S/S Project (Stage 2)
3. Cagayan-Nueva Ecija 230kV T/L Project
4. Cagayan-Nueva Ecija 230kV S/S Project
5. Luzon-S/S Reliability Project 1
6. Nueva Ecija-Quezon 230kV T/L Project
7. Sta. Rita-Quezon 500kV T/L Project
8. Visayas Substation Reliability Project 2 (Stage 1)
9. Pulang-Kibawe 138kV Transmission Line Project
10. Mindanao Reliability Compliance Project 1, (Phase 2: Mabinay-Kirtan (Dumaguete) 138kV Line Project)
11. Cagayan-Nueva Ecija 500kV T/L Project
12. Calaca-Tuy 500kV T/L Project
13. Calaca-Carmona 500kV T/L Project
14. Mindanao S/S Reliability Project 2
15. Mindanao S/S Reliability Project 1 (Kidapawan, Kibawe & Lugait)
16. Visayas Substation Reliability Project 1, Stage 1 (Colon-Mandaue/ Balamban/Cebu/Naga/Cebu/ Amlan/Tabunoc)
17. San Jose-Balintawak 230kV Line 2 Project
18. San Jose-Hogat 115kV Line Upgrading Project
19. Ambuklao-Binga 230kV Transmission Line Upgrading Project
20. Luzon-S/S Expansion Project 4
21. Calaca-Mataas 69kV T/L Project
22. Santiago-Tuguegarao 230kV Line 2 Project
23. Mexico – San Manuel 230kV T/L Project (Stage 2)
24. Mindanao Reliability Compliance Project 1, (Phase 1: Butuan-Placer 138kV T/L Project)
25. Eastern Mindy 69kV T/L Project
26. Sta. Barbara 230kV S/S Project
27. Batangas-Mindoro Interconnection Project

ATTY. ANTHONY L. OLMEDA
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Quezon Avenue corner IBP Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines 1100
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(PIA - Feb. 3 & 4, 2012)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Center for Health Development, Central Visayas
Osmeña Blvd., Cebu City

BIDS and AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID: 4/09

THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT, CENTRAL VISAYAS (DOH-CHD, PB) through bidding and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors to bid for the following project:

Item/Lot Number	Area in Sq. M. / Location	Delivery Period / Completion Period	ABC (NTE) Unit Price / Amount
Project 1	Upgrading of Barangay Health Stations (Barangay Health Station) in Cebu (Bid Area 1)	Nov 2012-03-31	Php 3,000.00
Project 2	Upgrading of Rural Health Unit (RHU) in Cebu (Bid Area 2)	120	3,000.00
Project 3	Upgrading of Rural Health Unit in Negros Oriental (Bid Area 3)	120	3,000.00
Project 4	Upgrading of Rural Health Unit in Siquijor (Bid Area 4)	120	3,000.00
Project 5	Upgrading of Barangay Health Station in Bohol (Bid Area 5)	120	3,000.00
Project 6	Upgrading of Barangay Health Center in Leyte (Bid Area 6)	120	3,000.00
Project 7	Upgrading of Rural Health Unit in Biliran (Bid Area 7)	120	3,000.00
Project 8	Upgrading of Rural Health Unit in Eastern Samar (Bid Area 8)	120	3,000.00

All projects to be done shall have experience in undertaking or similar project within the last 5 years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project's ABC. The eligibility check/screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall commence immediately after the deadline of submission of bids. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All bidders shall declare its eligibility (bidders) and bid documents, and shall be in the Philippine Peso by the Bidding Documents (PB 3). If NGO is the Implementing Bureau or Implementing Agency (IBA).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	February 03, 2012 - February 17, 2012 (Cash and Check Disbursement) 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM (DOH-CHD, CO, Osmeña Blvd., Cebu City)
2. Pre-bid Conference (Only those who have purchased the bid documents are allowed to participate)	February 16, 2012 8:00 AM (Room 2 in the DOH-CHD, CO, Osmeña Blvd., Cebu City)
3. Opening of Bids	March 01, 2012 8:00 AM (Room 2 in the Legal Conference Room) (DOH-CHD, CO, Osmeña Blvd., Cebu City)

Bid documents shall be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount equivalent to 0.5% of the respective Project Cost (contract) PBCs to the Cash Disbursement Section, Cashier's Office.

The Procurement Unit reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids and to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of the bid.

DR. ANSELMO S. CAMPOS
Chairman, BAC

(DOH-Feb. 3, 2012)

Republic of the Philippines
Quezon and Rizal Credit Guarantee Corporation
Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR THE PROJECT CONSULTANCY SERVICES

The Quezon and Rizal Credit Guarantee Corporation (QUARIZCO) invites all financing companies and other institutions to participate in the public bidding for the Consultancy Services for the Project Study of the Region of Php 1,000,000.00.

Interested bidders may obtain the bid documents from the Head of the Bids and Awards Committee at the Bids and Awards Committee Office, QUARIZCO Building, Quezon City upon payment of a non-refundable bidding fee of P 1,000.00. For inquiry, please call the Bids and Awards Committee Office, 373-8877 loc 4114.

Qualified bidders may request for a Pre-Bid Conference on Feb. 10, 2012, 1:00 p.m. at Quezon City Hall, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Bids and applicable requirements must be delivered on or before Feb. 22, 2012, 10:00 a.m. to the Bids and Awards Committee Office, QUARIZCO Building, Quezon City.

Bid opening shall be on Feb. 22, 2012, 1:30 p.m. at Quezon City Hall, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City. Bidders may opt to be present at the opening of the bidders who chooses to attend.

The BAC reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any defects or informalities therein, or accept any bids or offers which it may consider advantageous and favorable to the government.

Chair. ANSELMO S. CAMPOS
Chairman, BAC

(DOH-Feb. 3, 2012)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

LOST NAME

BUSINESS ADS

HOUSEHOLD

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TOWNSHIP

PETS

OTHER EQUIPMENT

RENT TO OWN (CHOC-OC)

MANAGE SYSTEMS

HOUSE & LOT

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TOWNSHIP

HOUSE & MOTORCYCLE

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

CAR LOAN

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

WANTED TO BUY

PUBLIC NOTICES

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

South Cotabato II Electric Cooperative Inc.
Jose Catolico Ave., Lagao, General Santos City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

SOUTH COTABATO II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INCORPORATED (SOCOTECO II) invites international bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

Month-zero Stocking Requirements for One (1) Year
BID 001_2012

Item	Description	Quantity	ABC (Php)	Price for BID Documents (Php)
1	CONDUCTOR ACSR, 477 MCM, 54/7 ALCN	150,000 kms	5,000,000.00	5,000.00
2	CONDUCTOR TRIPLEX, 336MCM 4.16 ALCN	50,000 kms	2,000,000.00	
3	CONDUCTOR TRIPLEX, 336MCM XLPE ALCN	50,000 kms	2,000,000.00	
4	CONDUCTOR ACSR, 336MCM	50,000 kms	2,000,000.00	5,000.00
5	CONDUCTOR ACSR, 266MCM	50,000 kms	2,000,000.00	
6	CONDUCTOR ACSR, 2/0	50,000 kms	2,000,000.00	

SOCOTECO II will hold a Pre-Bid Conference for the subject, as stated above which shall be open only to all interested parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents.

Procurement activities are as follows:

ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
RELEASE OF BID DOCUMENTS	FEBRUARY 1 TO 15, 2012
PRE-BID CONFERENCE	10 FEBRUARY 2012 @ 10:00 AM (SOCOTECO II BOARD ROOM)
SUBMISSION OF BID	15 MARCH 2012 @ 1:30 PM
OPENING OF BIDS	15 MARCH 2012 @ 1:30 PM (SOCOTECO II BOARD ROOM)

SOCOTECO II reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of the bid.

SOUTH COTABATO II ELECTRIC COOP INC
Jose Catolico Ave., Lagao, Gen. Santos City
Phone (083)5526468, 5521511, 5521775 Fax (083)5526468

(Sgd.) **ENGR. JOHN RICHARD O. ALCASID**
BAC Chairperson

(PIA-Feb.3 & 4, 2012)

South Cotabato II Electric Cooperative Inc.
Jose Catolico Ave., Lagao, General Santos City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

SOUTH COTABATO II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INCORPORATED (SOCOTECO II) invites international bidders to submit eligibility and to bid for **ONE (1) SETS OF :**

KALIWA 200E BRIDGE SYSTEM (I-SERIES
(90 Mbps)

The scope of supply and installation and other technical specification details will be provided by the bidder. Bids must be made only on the address below on or before February 17, 2012 at 2:00 pm. Late bids shall not be accepted. Eligibility requirements can be obtained at the BAC Secretariat for pre-qualification not later than the submission of their bids.

SOCOTECO II reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of the bid.

SOUTH COTABATO II ELECTRIC COOP INC
Jose Catolico Avenue, Lagao, Gen. Santos City
Phone (083)5526468, 5521511, 5521775
Fax (083)5526468

(Sgd.) **ENGR. JOHN RICHARD O. ALCASID**
BAC Chairperson

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Camarines Sur

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT OF CALABANGA

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The LOCAL BIDS AND Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following:

Name of Project	Procurement of Fuel and Oil
Approved Budget for the Contract	P1,000,000.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least fifty percent (50%) of the proposed project's ABC. The Post-Qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All participants undergo the Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
Posting/ Publication/ invitation to bid	February 3 to 15, 2012 8:00 AM
Sale and issuance of eligibility documents and bid documents	
Pre-Bid Conference	February 14, 2012, 9:00 AM
Deadline of Bids	February 15, 2012, 9:00 AM
Opening of Bids	February 15, 2012, 9:00 AM

The foregoing bidding activities shall be conducted at the Municipal Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Office, Calabanga, Peale Market Compound, San Isidro, Calabanga, Camarines Sur. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Office of the BAC Chairman, Calabanga, Peale Market Compound, San Isidro, Calabanga, Camarines Sur.

Eligibility/Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount equivalent to 0.5% of the respective Project (or Contract) PBCs to the Cash Disbursement Section, Cashier's Office and shall not be accepted.

The Local Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality therein and reject all bids or undertake pre-to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) **HONORIO SEMIDO, JR.**
BAC Chairman

(PIA-Feb. 3, 2012)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. IV-A
W. Arellano St., S. Bay, Imus, Cavite (Via Dasmariñas, Cavite)
Telefax Nos. (046) 416-0992
February 01, 2012

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT (AEP)

Notice is hereby given that the following corporations/entities have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permit (AEP):

	Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name and Citizenship of Alien Applicant	Position and Nature (Duties) of Position
1.	Globetrade Int., Inc. #123, Puerto, Cavite	Mr. Wang Shi Hua / (Chinese)	President
2.	Philtimber Tech., Inc. #123, Puerto, Cavite	Mr. Tsuguyuki Suzuki / (Japanese)	General Manager
3.	ABC Green Corp. (Corporation) Unit A-123-1, ABC Bldg., Puerto Cavite, Cavite Tel. No. (046) 123-4567	Mr. Jimmy Kim / (Korean)	General Manager
4.	Globetrade Logistics Employees, Inc. #123, Puerto, Cavite	Mr. Wang Shi Hua / (Chinese)	President/General Manager

If you have any information/data in the above-mentioned applications please communicate with the Regional Director.

ATTY. RICARDO S. MARTINEZ JR. (CESO II)
Regional Director

To avoid fees on alien employment, please secure your employment clearance, visit the nearest Public Employment Service Office (PESO) or log on at www.jobs2.net

(DOLE-Feb. 3, 2012)

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BRANCHES NEAR YOU!
Antipolo Branch
Cainta Branch
San Mateo Branch
Taytay Branch
Rodriguez Branch
Montalban Branch

NOTICE is hereby given that the undersigned intends to transfer one motorcycle, Honda XRM 125 DS, Color Red, Engine No. JC39E-1000001, Chassis No. MLHJC3900C5000001, Year Model 2012, Plate No. 1-2345 of 2012, Owner's Name: Pedro Dela Cruz, Address: Brgy. Sta. Lucia 1, Cainta, Rizal, Contact No. 0917-123-4567 to any person or entity within fifteen (15) days from the date of this publication. Any claim not presented within the said period shall be considered waived.

(PIA-Feb. 3, 2012 & 4, 2012)

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned intends to transfer one motorcycle, Honda XRM 125 DS, Color Red, Engine No. JC39E-1000001, Chassis No. MLHJC3900C5000001, Year Model 2012, Plate No. 1-2345 of 2012, Owner's Name: Pedro Dela Cruz, Address: Brgy. Sta. Lucia 1, Cainta, Rizal, Contact No. 0917-123-4567 to any person or entity within fifteen (15) days from the date of this publication. Any claim not presented within the said period shall be considered waived.

(PIA-Feb. 3, 2012 & 4, 2012)

ATV 110CC 4 STROKE ENGINE
Automatic Transmission, 2 carrier only
Model: ATV 110CC
Tel. No. (063) 9123456 / 9234567

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Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on or before and at its Branch/Regional Office, Ground Floor, DBP Head Office Bldg., Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties:

LOT NO.	DESCRIPTION	AREA (SQ.M.)	LOCATION	MINIMUM BID PRICE
METRO MANILA				
LANDMARK DBP				
LMK-001	Residential lot TCT No. 001-2022(000001) with bldg.	80	Brgy. Tondo	2,400,000.00
LMK-002	Residential lot TCT No. 001-2022(000002) with bldg.	100	Lopez St., Poblacion, Brgy. 5, San Francisco	3,000,000.00
LMK-003	Residential lot TCT No. 112233 with bldg. (p)	120	Ave. Diversion	3,600,000.00
MARILAND				
MRL-001	Residential lot TCT No. 112-2022	200	Tierra Alegre, Lamesan	1,000,000.00
MRL-002	Residential lot TCT No. 112-2023	200	Tierra Alegre, Lamesan	1,000,000.00
DEL CARMEN				
DLC-001	Agricultural lot TCT No. T-123456 & T-123789 with bldg.	10,000	Brgy. Poblacion, Talisay	1,200,000.00
DLC-002	Agricultural lot TCT No. T-124012 (p)	7,500	Sitio Highland, Brgy. Pantay, Cabiao	1,125,000.00
BAMBU				
BMB-001	Residential lot TCT No. T-98012 with bldg. (p)	250	Zone 4 Resettlement Village, Brgy. Bahay, Bambu	1,875,000.00
BULACAN				
BLC-001	Residential lot TCT No. T-125041 with bldg.	240	Jasmin St., Sta. Rita Village, Guiguinto	2,400,000.00
BLC-002	Residential lot TCT No. 019012-96 with bldg. (p)	91	Lot 18, Block 1, Dahlia Ville Homes, Brgy. Tabing Ilog, Sta. Ana del Monte City	910,000.00
BLC-003	Farm lot, sugarcane agricultural, TCT No. T-98701 (2.1000 has.) with 2 deep tubewells	21,000	Sitio Malong Ilang, Bulakan	3,150,000.00
LEMERY				
LMR-001	Commercial condominium unit TCT No. T-120045 with parking (p)	60	Lemery Center	1,800,000.00
CHAPEL				
CHP-001	Residential lot TCT No. T-130-2022 with bldg.	90	Lot 20, Block 10, Poblacion Site 1, Brgy. Tabing Dagat	1,800,000.00
TIBIG				
TBG-001	Residential lot TCT No. T-114-2022	200	Poblacion Area B, Magsaysay	1,000,000.00
TBG-002	Residential lot TCT No. T-114-2023	200	Poblacion Area B, Magsaysay	1,000,000.00
TBG-003	Residential lot TCT No. T-114-2024 with bldg. (p)	375	Manila Road, Brgy. Dalaguan, Magsaysay	2,812,500.00
TBG-004	Residential lot TCT No. 112-2019(002) with bldgs.	20,000	Sitio Poblacion, Kinondangan, Magsaysay	10,000,000.00
LUCBAN				
LBN-001	Commercial lot TCT No. T-14-2022	450	Zone 4, Maharlika St., Poblacion 2, Lucban City	2,025,000.00
MAGALLANES				
MGL-001	Residential lot TCT No. T-2022-1 with bldg. (p) (p)	300	Sitio Alibo, Bahi Site	600,000.00
MGL-002	Two (2) adjacent commercial lots (TCT Nos. T-99001 and T-99002) with bldg. & improvements (p)	1,200	Brgy. Mabunga, Lucena	3,200,000.00
SUNTER LAKES				
SNT-001	Agricultural lot (TCT No. 2022-1)	12,000	Brgy. San Andres, Sorsogon	1,440,000.00
SNT-002	Agricultural lot (CCT No. 2022-2)	11,500	San Andres, Sorsogon	1,380,000.00
SNT-003	Agricultural lot (CCT No. 2022-3)	9,800	Brgy. Bakiad, Juban, Sorsogon	1,176,000.00
SNT-004	Agricultural lot (CCT No. 2022-4) with bldg. (p)	15,000	Brgy. Salvacion, Sorsogon	1,800,000.00
SNT-005	Agricultural lot (CCT No. 2022-5)	20,000	Sta. San Isidro, Donsol	2,400,000.00
SNT-006	Residential condominium lot (TCT No. 2022-6) with bldg.	180	Peso St., Brgy. 4, San Pascual	1,800,000.00
NAIBILA				
NBL-001	Residential lot TCT No. T-2022-001 with bldg.	2,000	San Fernando, Calauan City	1,000,000.00
NBL-002	Residential lot TCT No. T-2022-002 with bldg. (p)	2,000	San Fernando, Calauan City	1,000,000.00
NBL-003	Residential lot TCT No. T-2022-003 with bldg. (p)	1,500	Sitio Pinoso, Bitungay, Tulo-an	1,125,000.00
NBL-004	Residential lot TCT No. T-2022-004 with bldg. (p)	207	Lawaan Iron Zone, Poblacion, Calauan City	1,242,000.00
MESSENGER				
MSG-001	Industrial lot TCT No. T-15001 with bldg. improvements	5,000	Poblacion, Cebu Pilong	2,000,000.00
MSG-002	Industrial lot (TCT No. T-15002)	7,500	Poblacion, Cebu Pilong	3,000,000.00
METRO BACOLOD				
MBC-001	Residential lot TCT No. 041-2022(000001) with bldg. (p)	180.0	41 Brgy. St., Quezon, E.B. Magalona, Negros Occ.	2,000,000.00
MBC-002	Residential lot TCT No. 041-2022(000002) with bldg. & improvements (p)	450.0	Lot 7, Block 2, Phase 3, Villa Regalado Subdivision, Brgy. Mandalagan, Bacolod City	5,000,000.00
MADRID HEIGHTS				
MDH-001	Residential lot TCT No. T-12345 (p)	1,200	Brgy. Balintawak, Pagsanjan	2,400,000.00
MIGUEL CLEMENTE				
MGC-001	Residential lot TCT No. T-12345	2,000	Sitio Tabon, Cabuyao City	1,200,000.00
MGC-002	Residential lot TCT No. T-12346	1,800	Tabon-Tabon, Cabuyao City	1,080,000.00
NORTH FORBES				
NFB-001	Residential lot TCT No. T-2022-001 with bldg. (p)	120	Phase 3, Block 12, Magnolia Village, Brgy. Sta. Clara, Tarlac City	1,200,000.00
NFB-002	Residential lot TCT No. T-2022-002 with bldg. (p)	1,000	Phase 4 (C. Palo Drive), Bacolod Subdivision, Village, Brgy. San Rafael, Tarlac City	10,000,000.00
NFB-003	Residential lot TCT No. T-2022-003 with bldg. (p)	210	Lot 42, Block 10, Magnolia Village, Barangay, Tarlac City	2,100,000.00
NFB-004	Agricultural lot (TCT No. T-2022-004)	10,000	Brgy. Bunga, Bunga City	2,000,000.00
NFB-005	Residential lot TCT No. T-2022-005 with CARP lease (p)	1,200	Purok 3B, Pandacaqui Extension, Tarlac City, Barangay	2,400,000.00
NFB-006	Commercial condominium lot (TCT No. T-2022-006) with parking	1,200	Villa Entrance Road, Brgy. Dominga, Barangay	2,400,000.00
NFB-007	Agricultural lot (TCT No. T-2022-007) (p)	5,000	Brgy. Bunga, Bunga City	1,000,000.00
NFB-008	Farm lot, agricultural, TCT No. T-2022-008 with 1 deep tubewell	15,000	Sitio Malong Ilang, Bulakan	3,000,000.00
CAMELLA				
CML-001	Residential lot TCT No. T-2022-001	200	Lot 5, Block 11	500,000.00
CML-002	Residential lot TCT No. T-2022-002	200	Lot 6, Block 11	500,000.00
CML-003	Residential lot TCT No. T-2022-003	200	Lot 7, Block 11	500,000.00
CML-004	Residential lot TCT No. T-2022-004	200	Lot 8, Block 11	500,000.00
CML-005	Residential lot TCT No. T-2022-005 with bldg. (p)	150	Lot 9, Block 11, Magnolia Village, Brgy. Sta. Clara, Tarlac City	1,500,000.00
CML-006	Residential lot TCT No. T-2022-006 with bldg. (p)	1,000	Phase 4 (C. Palo Drive), Bacolod Subdivision, Village, Brgy. San Rafael, Tarlac City	10,000,000.00
CML-007	Residential lot TCT No. T-2022-007 with bldg. (p)	210	Lot 42, Block 10, Magnolia Village, Barangay, Tarlac City	2,100,000.00
CML-008	Agricultural lot (TCT No. T-2022-008)	10,000	Brgy. Bunga, Bunga City	2,000,000.00
CML-009	Residential lot TCT No. T-2022-009 with CARP lease (p)	1,200	Purok 3B, Pandacaqui Extension, Tarlac City, Barangay	2,400,000.00
CML-010	Commercial condominium lot (TCT No. T-2022-010) with parking	1,200	Villa Entrance Road, Brgy. Dominga, Barangay	2,400,000.00
HERA				
HRA-001	Home condominium lot (TCT No. T-12345) (p)	30	Lot 20-A-1, Phase 1, Block 1, Sta. Rosa-Tagaytay Road, Brgy. Silonay, Sta. Rosa	4,800,000.00
SAN ISIDRO				
SID-001	Residential lot TCT No. SID-2022-001	2,000	Purok 4, Brgy. Poblacion, Sitio Sto. Domingo	800,000.00
SID-002	Residential lot TCT No. SID-2022-002 with bldg. (p)	1,000	Purok 4, Brgy. Poblacion, Sitio Sto. Domingo	1,000,000.00
MAGALLANES				
MGL-001	Residential lot TCT No. T-2022-001	300	Lot 3, Block 11	600,000.00
MGL-002	Residential lot TCT No. T-2022-002	300	Lot 4, Block 11	600,000.00
MGL-003	Residential lot TCT No. T-2022-003	300	Lot 5, Block 11	600,000.00
MGL-004	Residential lot TCT No. T-2022-004 with bldg. (p)	450	Lot 6, Block 11, Magnolia Village, Brgy. Sta. Clara, Tarlac City	4,500,000.00
MGL-005	Residential lot TCT No. T-2022-005 with bldg. (p)	1,000	Phase 4 (C. Palo Drive), Bacolod Subdivision, Village, Brgy. San Rafael, Tarlac City	10,000,000.00
MGL-006	Residential lot TCT No. T-2022-006 with bldg. (p)	210	Lot 42, Block 10, Magnolia Village, Barangay, Tarlac City	2,100,000.00
MGL-007	Agricultural lot (TCT No. T-2022-007)	10,000	Brgy. Bunga, Bunga City	2,000,000.00
MGL-008	Residential lot TCT No. T-2022-008 with CARP lease (p)	1,200	Purok 3B, Pandacaqui Extension, Tarlac City, Barangay	2,400,000.00
MGL-009	Commercial condominium lot (TCT No. T-2022-009) with parking	1,200	Villa Entrance Road, Brgy. Dominga, Barangay	2,400,000.00
SAN ISIDRO				
SID-001	Residential lot TCT No. SID-2022-001	2,000	Purok 4, Brgy. Poblacion, Sitio Sto. Domingo	800,000.00
SID-002	Residential lot TCT No. SID-2022-002 with bldg. (p)	1,000	Purok 4, Brgy. Poblacion, Sitio Sto. Domingo	1,000,000.00
SAN ISIDRO				
SID-001	Residential lot TCT No. SID-2022-001	2,000	Purok 4, Brgy. Poblacion, Sitio Sto. Domingo	800,000.00
SID-002	Residential lot TCT No. SID-2022-002 with bldg. (p)	1,000	Purok 4, Brgy. Poblacion, Sitio Sto. Domingo	1,000,000.00
MAGALLANES				
MGL-001	Residential lot TCT No. T-2022-001	300	Lot 3, Block 11	600,000.00
MGL-002	Residential lot TCT No. T-2022-002	300	Lot 4, Block 11	600,000.00
MGL-003	Residential lot TCT No. T-2022-003	300	Lot 5, Block 11	600,000.00
MGL-004	Residential lot TCT No. T-2022-004 with bldg. (p)	450	Lot 6, Block 11, Magnolia Village, Brgy. Sta. Clara, Tarlac City	4,500,000.00
MGL-005	Residential lot TCT No. T-2022-005 with bldg. (p)	1,000	Phase 4 (C. Palo Drive), Bacolod Subdivision, Village, Brgy. San Rafael, Tarlac City	10,000,000.00
MGL-006	Residential lot TCT No. T-2022-006 with bldg. (p)	210	Lot 42, Block 10, Magnolia Village, Barangay, Tarlac City	2,100,000.00
MGL-007	Agricultural lot (TCT No. T-2022-007)	10,000	Brgy. Bunga, Bunga City	2,000,000.00
MGL-008	Residential lot TCT No. T-2022-008 with CARP lease (p)	1,200	Purok 3B, Pandacaqui Extension, Tarlac City, Barangay	2,400,000.00
MGL-009	Commercial condominium lot (TCT No. T-2022-009) with parking	1,200	Villa Entrance Road, Brgy. Dominga, Barangay	2,400,000.00
SAN ISIDRO				
SID-001	Residential lot TCT No. SID-2022-001	2,000	Purok 4, Brgy. Poblacion, Sitio Sto. Domingo	800,000.00
SID-002	Residential lot TCT No. SID-2022-002 with bldg. (p)	1,000	Purok 4, Brgy. Poblacion, Sitio Sto. Domingo	1,000,000.00

TITLE NO.	DESCRIPTION	AREA (SQ.M.)	LOCATION	MINIMUM BID PRICE
045-007	TCT No. 272015	90	Lot 15, Block 10	90,000.00
045-008	TCT No. 272016	90	Lot 16, Block 10	90,000.00
045-009	TCT No. 272017	90	Lot 17, Block 10	90,000.00

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

ATTY. FELIX (ELY) TOPACIO JAVALERA

January 30, 1951 – February 01, 2012

FORMER FISCAL, PASIG COURT OF FIRST INSTANCE
FORMER CORPORATE LEGAL COUNSEL
CENTRAL BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

He was a loving husband to the late HELINDA CERALDE MICHAEL; devoted brother to his siblings: Col. Lauderico(†) Librado(†), Sherie(†), Ernesto(†), Felipe(†), Adelfa(†), Engr. Rhodora(†) and Michelle(†), and to his in-laws, Leonila(†), Florencio(†), Salvacion(†), Teodoro(†), Fernando(†) and Armando(†).

He is survived by his adopted son, Basil P. Santos; daughter-in-law Eleanor O. Santos; grandchildren Basil Alessandro, Elaine Angelique and Nico Leandro; sisters-in-law Arnelli Dupa-Javalera, Asuncion Faustino Cuesta and Hilda Sandoz Mendoza; nephews, nieces, grandnephews, grandnieces, greatgrandchildren, greatgrandnephews, greatgrandnieces; great great grandnephews and great great grandnieces.

His remains lie in state at the GRAND CHAPEL, FUNERARIA LAPINIG, Col. 1 Blanca St., Intra, Cavite and will be interred in the Javalera Family Plot, Intas Lindo Cemetery on Saturday, February 4, 2012 after the 2:00p.m. Thanksgiving Service at the Intas Verde Church.

CONCORDIA 'CONDE' POLICARPIO YSMAEL (RS)

of Newton City & San Francisco Ca., U.S.A.
September 1, 1931 – December 8, 2011

Peacefully joined our creator and her husband
Capt. Wilbur R. Ysmael U.S. Army) and her son Silvan Allan Ysmael

Her cremated remains will arrive on Friday morning, February 3, from San Francisco, California and will lie in state at St. Alphonsus Mary De Ligouri Parish at Hemedon Plain, Magallanes Village, Makati City. Interment will be on Saturday, February 4 after the 10AM mass at the Policarpio Mausoleum, Family Court Heritage Estate in Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

She is survived by her daughter Cindra, grandchildren: Reid Primeli and Ivana Kavilla, great-granddaughter Devya O'dara

Parents: Simeon (†) & Modesta Policarpio (†), Sisters: Lamecia(†) & Loretta (†), Brothers Ricardo(†), Feliciano (†), Abelardo(†), Pepe (†) & Dr. Ruben, Bro. Teofie, brother & sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces

Please readers, relatives and friends are requested to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

ALEJANDER REYES AFRICA

Passed away in the Grace of the Lord
on 27 January 2012 at the age of 67

His body lies in state at the St. Peter Memorial Chapel, Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on 04 February 2012, Saturday, at Lapu-Lapu Cemetery, after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at the San Sebastian Cathedral, Lipa City.

P/Supt. Rolmes Birung Alcantara (Ret)

Died last January 30, 2012
at the age of 56

He is survived by his wife Lilibeth; children: Rolmel Jr., Rolmar, Rolmie, Rolmer and Rolmark; brothers: Rodolfo, Ricardo, Rolando, Rodrigo, Rogelio, Rosalio, Rosario and Rosalino; sisters: Rosalina, Rosario, Rosalia, Rosalina, Rosalia, Rosalina, Rosalia, Rosalina